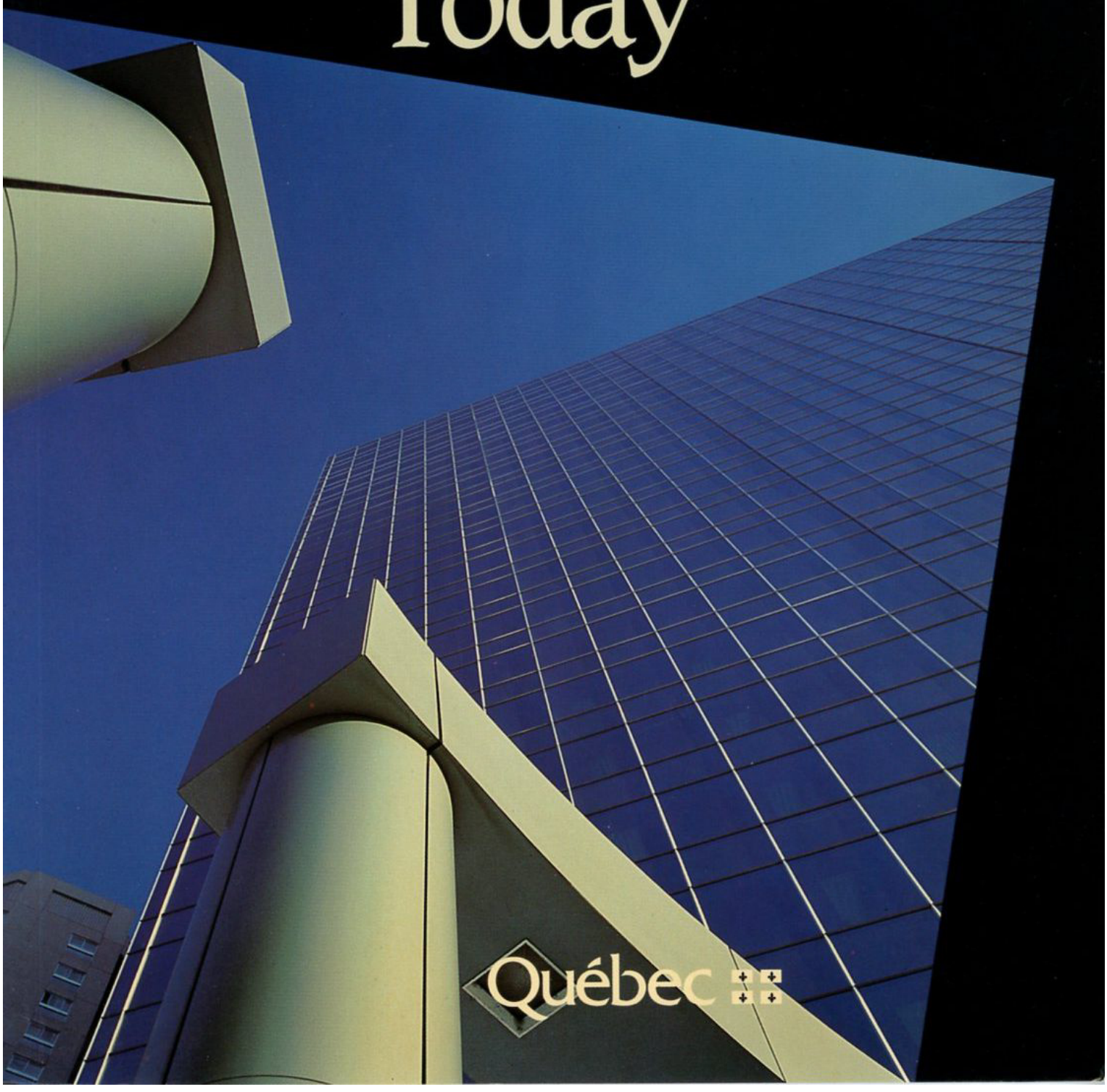
QUÉBEC
Today



QUÉBEC
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Unless otherwise stipulated, all financial data are expressed in Canadian dollars.

Claire Dufour

At their coldest, winter temperatures in Québec may plunge to — 35°C.

1

The Seasons

Québec is a land of fascinating contrasts. The summer is extremely mild, even fairly warm, in this land of the North. Québec is the only society on the North American continent with a majority French-speaking population. "Discovered" a scant 450 years ago, it is also one of the most modern societies. An abundance of natural resources has helped Quebecers attain the ninth highest standard of living in the world.

From the time of Québec's first settlers, living in Québec has meant coming to terms with nature: drawing sustenance—and enjoyment—from the land. This New World of the sixteenth century, a vast land of countless lakes and forests, has fulfilled its early promise. After overcoming the rigours of land and climate by their patience and the sweat of their brow, Quebecers have opened their land to one and all.

Québec is a welcoming land of peace and democracy. Its inhabitants include ten nations of Native peoples; the descendants of the first French settlers; the descendants of the English and Irish who arrived two centuries later; and the immigrants from many countries who have settled in Québec over the past few decades. A society of pioneers—of workers, builders and clearers of the land—Québec has also produced engineers, artists, inventors, poets and scientists.

Quebecers are a warm, hospitable people, whose doors are open to visitors winter and summer. Québec has frequently hosted events on a world scale: in Montréal, Québec's largest city, the 1967 Exhibition entitled "Man and his World"; the 1976 Olympic Games; the 1980 Floralies internationales; in Québec City, the capital, the 1984 Tall Ships festivities marking the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in the New World.

With an area of 1.5 million sq. km, Québec could contain all of Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Switzerland and both Germanys, with their combined population of 200 million. But Québec, which is partly situated in the Far North, has a relatively small population of 6.5 million that is concentrated in the southern regions (between the forty-fifth and fiftieth parallels), where the temperate climate is characterized by four distinct seasons.

Since the days of Jacques Cartier's arrival from France in 1534, the St. Lawrence River valley, widening into a fertile plain as one travels from west to east, has constituted the vital axis of Québec. It is here that most of the population is concentrated; here, too, we find much of Québec's arable land, a large proportion of its industries,

and its two main cities: Montréal (the bustling metropolis) and Québec City (the capital).

Québec's territory covers a large area, so some regions remain snow-covered longer than others. In the Montréal plain, where population density is highest, snow covers the ground for an average of twelve to thirteen weeks, and the January temperature averages -8°C. But Québec is a land of extremes, and temperatures sometimes dip to -35°C. Modern heating systems using electricity, oil or natural gas maintain the temperature in houses, public buildings and places of work at about 20°C. Cars and buses are well heated, so Quebecers are protected from the cold.

MTQ

In spring, the temperature begins to rise, reaching an average of 26°C in July in the Montréal plain. But highs between 36°C and 38°C are also recorded, accompanied by a high humidity reading. The temperature drops gradually in autumn, as leaves turn red and yellow before finally falling to the ground in November when the winter weather begins. Regardless of the season, however, what strikes one most is the many sunshine hours: Montréal gets 100 more sunshine hours annually than Paris, though the latter is also situated in a temperate zone.

Quebecers often talk about the weather—yesterday's, today's, tomorrow's. The weather conditions of four distinct seasons have helped to shape their mentality and way of life. The people of Québec are as thrilled to see the first snowfall as they are to see the first robin of spring.

Quebecers love winter for its activities: snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, downhill skiing, skating and ice hockey. Winter is also the season for visiting and celebrating with family and friends.

Summer is the season of sidewalk cafés, when flowers bloom in the cities and sunbathers of all ages head for the parks to enjoy the sunshine. On weekends Quebecers often make for the lakes to sail, canoe, swim or water-ski. Baseball, soccer (Europe's "football"), American football,

Fred Klaus

The blazing autumn colours of a valley in the Estrie region.

and cycling are also popular summer sports. Physical fitness buffs come outside in the summer, after a winter spent practising their sports in the gym.

Living with the Cold

Although winter in Québec lasts five months a year, it no longer presents the problems it did for the first settlers. When these pioneers arrived in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the land was inhabited by the Amerindian and Inuit peoples. It was from these peoples that the French learned to clothe themselves with animal skins for protection from the cold. They soon became trappers and "coureurs des bois."

With a wealth of forest stands stretching as far as the eye could see, the settlers became lumberjacks, taking wood for their shelter and fuel. They also became hunters, counting on the forest to provide them with game. And, given Québec's countless lakes and rivers, they became fishermen and merchants. The first farmers established themselves on the rich, arable land of the St. Lawrence River valley.

Throughout this period of the initial development of New France (as it was then called), life was hard indeed. Much harder than it is today. Over the years, Quebecers have discovered increasingly efficient ways of building, insulating and heating their houses; of adapting their vehicles to the conditions of ice and snow; and of building and maintaining a system of roads that allows access to the most distant reaches of the land. Northern living has become a Québec specialty.

One Québec invention bears a direct connection to winter. With the invention of the snowmobile, a new product was put on the market and new industries were created. The snowmobile was the brainchild of Joseph-Armand Bombardier (1907-1964) who, isolated in the country during winter, sought a light, all-terrain vehicle capable of moving over snow. His 1922 prototype took the very simple form of a four-runnered toboggan powered by a Model "T" engine and equipped with a propeller.

MCQ

A Québec invention to tame winter:
Joseph Armand Bombardier's snowmobile.

Bombardier continued his work over the next thirty years, turning out increasingly sophisticated models and building specialized vehicles for the Canadian army. He also built specialized vehicles for public transportation in the North, and for use in oil exploration. In the late fifties Bombardier launched the Ski-Doo™ snowmobile, which created a new sport for Quebecers and quickly became an efficient means of transportation for trappers, game wardens and others working in the North. The Bombardier firm currently holds some forty patents.

In 1987, Bombardier's sales of snowmobiles and related products— trailers, sleighs, clothing and accessories—

totalled more than $1.2 billion. The company also builds products for railways and public transit systems (it has supplied subway cars for both the New York and Mexico City systems). Exports now total some $800 million annually.

In southern regions, snowmobiles are used mainly for sport; in the North, the vehicle meets the need for fast and efficient transportation between the sparsely scattered villages of the vast tundra.

Quebecers have met the challenges presented by their harsh climate and rugged geography: 8,600 km of railway track and 123,900 km of roads and highways criss-cross Québec's populated regions. In winter, tons of sand and salt are spread on roads and highways so that traffic can continue unimpeded despite ice and snow. Roads are clear within a few hours after a snowstorm, and traffic moves without difficulty. Even in Montréal, with its 2,500 streets, avenues and boulevards (1,840 km), city life maintains its usual pace. As a rule, only the school children occasionally get a few hours off.

Pierre Poulet

Ski enthusiasts on the way to the summit. Winter is all too short!

A T A G L A N C E

Temperatures

- Averages: -8.6°C in January; 26.1°C in July
- Extremes: -33.9°C and 36.1°C
- In Nouveau-Québec: -22°C average low in January; 12°C average high in July.

Sun, Rain and Snow

Daily periods of sunshine: 15 hours in July, 8 hours in December
Average annual rainfall: 776.5 mm
Average annual snowfall: 242.8 cm
Snow on the ground: from 12 weeks (Montréal) to 23 weeks (basse Côte-Nord).

L'Imagier (Claudel Huot)

Pleasant proximity: Québec City and the St. Lawrence change with the seasons and the hours.

2

The Mighty River

From the time of the Amerindians, the immense and powerful St. Lawrence River (the largest river flowing into the Atlantic in the northern hemisphere) has been the focus of life in Québec. The St. Lawrence is some 1,200 km long. At its narrowest point, flowing past Québec City, its width is 600 m; just before becoming a gulf, between the towns of Matane and Baie-Comeau, it measures some 64 km across. Crossing here by boat takes two to three hours.

The St. Lawrence, with over 100 tributaries, is the drainage basin for almost all the waterways of Québec's inhabited regions. More than 10,000 bridges span the River and its tributaries. Islands in the River number more than 500. The largest of these are Montréal Island and Ile Jésus, situated side by side, and Ile d'Orléans, well known for the pastoral beauty of its cottages and farmlands. Ile d'Orléans is also home to Félix Leclerc, one of Québec's great chansonniers.

Jacques Cartier was the first explorer to sail up the St. Lawrence. During his first voyage in 1534 he explored the Gulf and took symbolic possession of the land in the name of the King of France. He returned the following year, this time reaching Hochelaga (Montréal) before turning back to spend the winter at Stadacona (Québec City). On his third voyage (1541-1542), Cartier attempted to establish a settlement a short distance upstream from Stadacona, at a site he named Charlesbourg-Royal. Québec City was not founded until 1608, when Samuel de Champlain arrived with about thirty followers. With the founding of Québec City (one of the first European settlements in North America), the colony of New France was born. Montréal, first called Ville-Marie, was founded by Maisonneuve in 1642. The colony of New France was concentrated along the River, and depended on farming and the fur trade for subsistence.

In those days, the River was as yet the only means of transportation, and the whole of New France depended on it for its livelihood. Seigniories were established along the River, in the form of long strips of land running perpendicular to the shore; in this way, each seignior had access to the waterway. The alignment of the strips of land formed the "ranges", which were granted to the settlers. As the population of the seigniory increased, a second and third

"range" might be established behind the first. Thus originated the long, narrow fields so typical of the St. Lawrence plain.

Journeying westward by canoe, the missionaries and coureurs des bois discovered vast stretches of land beyond the River: their explorations took them to the Rocky Mountains in western Canada, and to Louisiana in the southern United States.

Cartier's attempts at further exploration by ship were thwarted by the powerful Lachine rapids west of Montréal. With a good deal of courage it was possible to take ships down the rapids, provided they were unloaded upstream beforehand. But it was impossible to mount the rapids, and all cargo had to be portaged 13 km overland.

It was only in 1824 that a canal was built along the north side of the rapids: the Lachine Canal would play a leading role in the economic development of the country. It was important to push further westward, for the River was the gateway to the Great Lakes, linking Canada and the United States, as well as the central and western parts of the continent. Before long, however, the canals situated upstream from Montréal could no longer meet the demand.

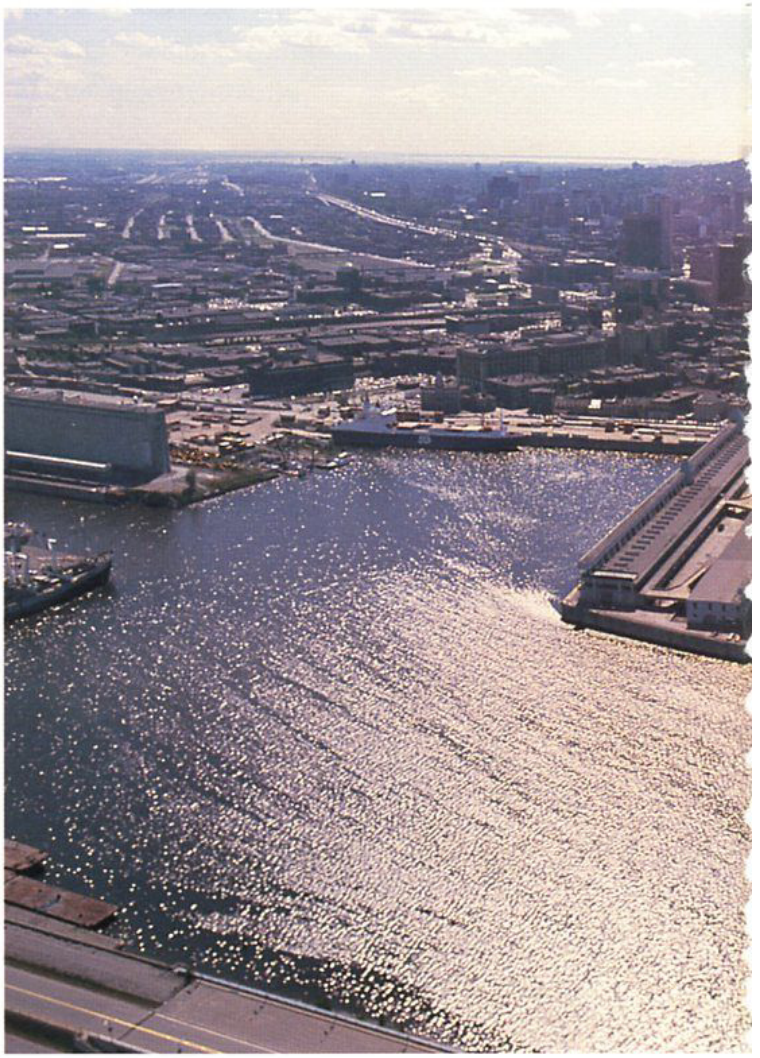
The St. Lawrence Seaway, built and managed jointly by Canada and the United States, was opened in 1959. The Seaway's system of locks and canals allows large ships (up to 222 m long and 23 m wide) to travel from Montréal to Lake Superior. Although winter freeze-up keeps the Seaway closed from December to April, the River remains a major artery for world trade, particularly in wheat, iron ore, steel and coal.

The Seaway, linking the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes Basin and opening some 3,800 km of navigable waterway, provides access to the western Prairies and to major industrial centres in Canada and the United States. The St. Lawrence River has thus become North America's principal river axis.

Agriculture and the River

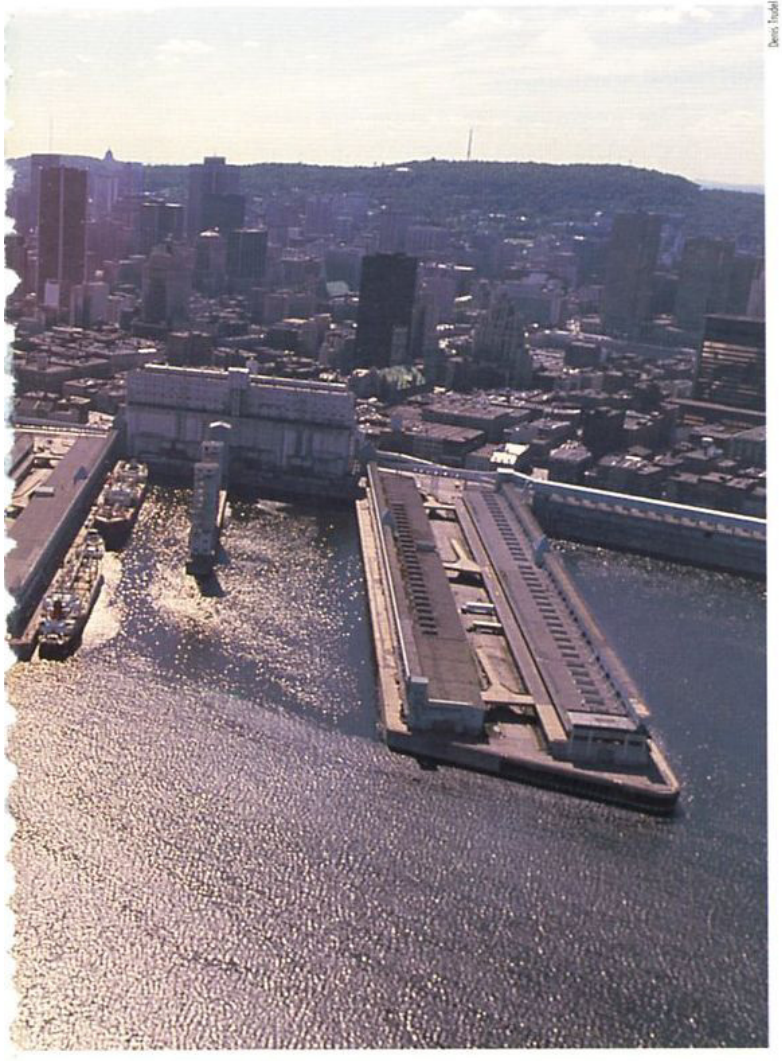
With its rich soils and temperate climate, the St. Lawrence valley is the prime agricultural region of Québec. The St. Lawrence plain feeds half the Québec population. This region is largely responsible for the vitality of the farming sector: Québec produces fully 78 percent of the food it requires.

Given the diversity of its soils, climates and markets, it is not surprising that Québec produces a great variety of agricultural products. Animal products account for 80 percent of the total, with dairy products topping the list (35 percent of total agricultural revenues in 1986).



Farmland in Québec, protected by legislation since 1978, comprises 85 percent of the best arable soils (2.5 million hectares). With approximately 1.9 million hectares under cultivation, the capital value of Québec's 40,000 farms is rising steadily: in 1985 it was estimated at $9.5 billion.

The port of Montréal ranks among the four largest in North America in terms of volume of activity and the number of people it employs.



Denis Tardif

A Strategic Location

The Canadian Shield, the world's oldest mountain range (Precambrian), covers approximately 60 percent of Québec's land mass and runs from the St. Lawrence plain to the Hudson Strait, more than 2,000 km north of Montréal.

On Québec's southern border lie the foothills of the Appalachians, which separate Québec from the United States. Here woods and rolling hills are dotted with farms. To the east these rounded summits give way to the Chic-Choc Mountains.

Between the two mountain ranges lies the St. Lawrence valley. With Hudson Bay and the Atlantic Ocean on one side, and with the St. Lawrence River crossing it from west to east, Québec occupies a strategic position with respect to maritime transport. The St. Lawrence has allowed Quebecers to open their land to the world.

Québec's great international ports are Montréal and Québec City. On the north shore of the St. Lawrence lie the industrial port cities of Sept-Iles and Port-Cartier. In 1986, Québec handled 103.6 million tonnes of merchandise, or approximately one-third of all goods loaded and unloaded in Canadian ports.

Montréal's deep-water port is the only one in Québec to handle containers regularly. In 1986, Montréal handled some 4.9 million tonnes of goods in containers—more than any other Canadian port. Montréal is one of the four most important ports in North America.

Unlike the Seaway, which closes for part of the cold season, Québec's ports are open year-round.

The Gulf stretches for hundreds of kilometres along Québec's coastline, and fishing boats of all sizes ply its waters. Commercial fishing has always been important in Québec: the industry currently brings in more than $82 million annually.

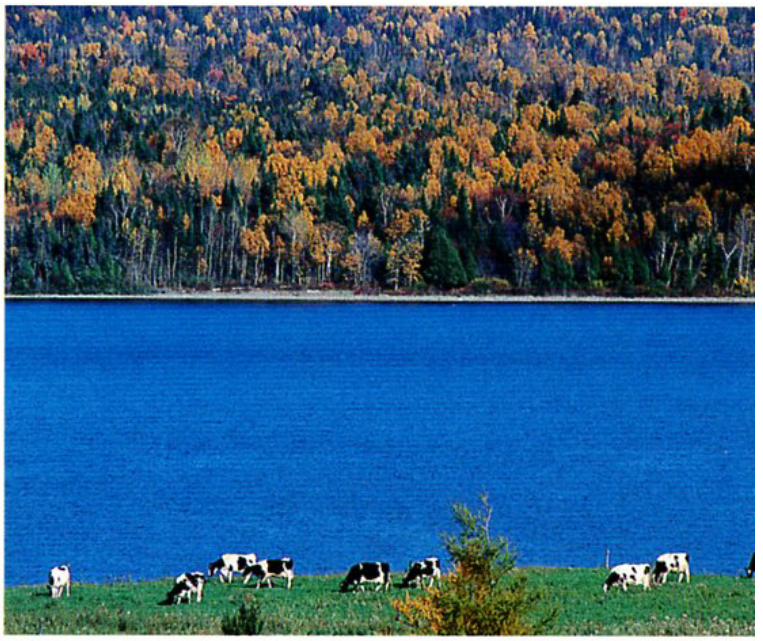
Québec's 6,000 fishermen harvest a wide variety of fish, crustaceans and mollusks; most of these are caught in one of

three regions: Iles-de-la-Madeleine (situated in the middle of the Gulf), Gaspésie, and the Côte-Nord. Virtually all of Québec's sixty-three fish-processing plants are also located in these regions. Almost half these plants process only one species: cod (which, salted or dried, has a considerable reputation on world markets), herring or lobster. Most filleted and frozen fish is exported to the United States.

In 1977, a 320-km fishing zone was established, beginning at the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Since that time, Québec fishermen have turned increasingly to ocean fishing. The waters of the St. Lawrence and the Gulf are among the richest in the world for the quantity and variety of their stocks.

With its deep-water ports, its Seaway, its River and its air links to the rest of the world out of Montréal, Québec stands at the intersection of the major trade routes linking North America to Europe, Africa and Latin America.

Some thirty airlines provide service between Montréal and most of the world's capitals and major cities. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has its head office in Montréal, as does the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Montréal's two main airports, Dorval and Mirabel, annually accommodate more than seven million passengers on international flights.



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Northern Development

Despite its enormous land mass, Québec has a population density of only four people per sq. km. The French settlers of the early seventeenth century found wild game, rare fur-bearing animals and endless forests.

The early explorers were daring and adventurous in trying to subdue a land whose size could not be compared with anything they had known in Europe. In spite of this adventurous spirit, Québec's economy remained closely tied to agriculture and the fur trade until the nineteenth century. Before this time there were virtually no means of communication. Anyone who strayed from the safety of the St. Lawrence's shores was destined to a life of isolation, and thus of poverty.

With the nineteenth century came the realization that Québec's future lay with its abundant natural resources: forests, minerals, waterways. Like many other societies, Québec began a period of industrialization. In the twentieth century, with the discovery and development of mineral wealth in the virtually uninhabited region of Nouveau-Québec, Québec turned resolutely toward the future—and toward northern expansion.

A T A G L A N C E

Ports (1986)

103 million tonnes of goods handled in Québec ports
Port of Montréal: 21.6 million tonnes, 17,000 jobs
Port of Québec City: 12.5 million tonnes, 7,300 jobs
Sept-Iles and Port-Cartier: 43.1 million tonnes.

Fisheries (1986)

Value of catches: $82 million; Fishing boats: 2,950; Bottom fish: 55,039 tonnes; Pel. fish: 6,941 tonnes; Mollusks, crustaceans: 26,020 tonnes. 63 processing plants employing 20,250 people for shipments valued at $165 million.

Airports

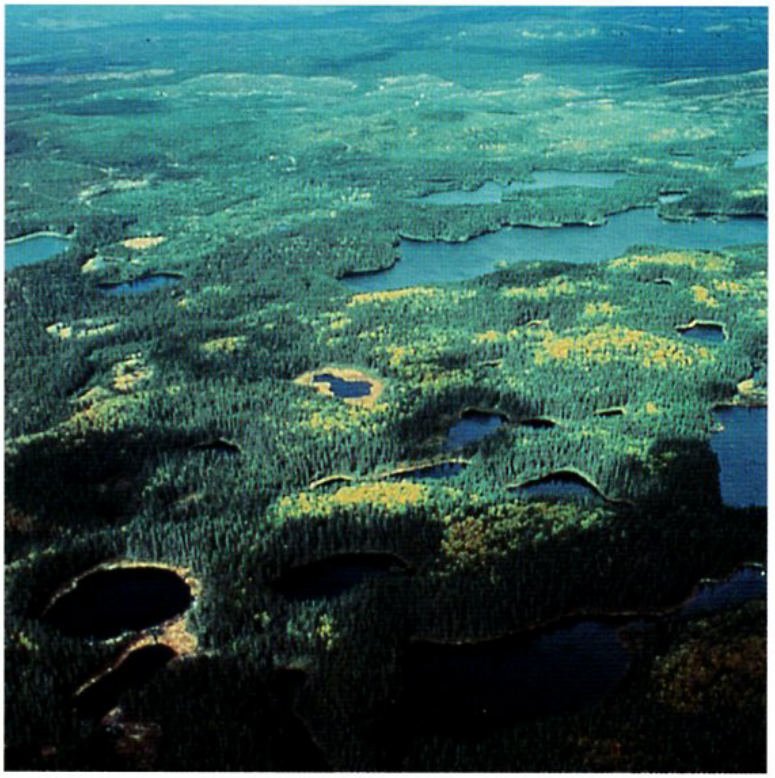
- 87 airports open to commercial and passenger traffic; also, 77 hydroplane ports and 60 heliports
- Three principal airports: Dorval, Mirabel, Québec City (Sainte-Foy). Total international traffic (Dorval, Mirabel, Québec City): 7.7 million passengers; 115,308 tonnes of goods.

Farming (1986)

Net income from agriculture: around one billion dollars
Total gross income: $3.5 billion
Current value of farm capital: $9.5 billion
Number of farms: 40,000
Manpower: 85,000 workers

Farm Products

- Grains: barley, corn, oats, wheat
- Vegetables: asparagus, beans, beets, broccoli, carrots, celery, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, peas, spinach, turnips
- Fruits: apples, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, tomatoes
- Animal products: beef, pork, lamb, poultry, milk, butter, cheese, honey
- World's largest producer of maple products: $50 million annually.



MCQ

Northern Québec: islands, dwarf vegetation and water as far as the eye can see.

3

Forest, Lake and Stream

Dotting the landscape of Québec are over a million lakes and streams — one for every six Quebecers! Forests occupy an area equal to the combined areas of France and Great Britain, or of Norway and Sweden. Commercial forests stretch out over almost half of Québec's land surface. In all, forests cover almost 1.2 million sq. km.

But water and trees, besides their great economic importance, are much valued by Quebecers as recreational resources. Depending on the season, forests and lakes become a hunter's or a fisherman's paradise; vast wild spaces provide ample opportunity for individuals to get outside, relax, and commune with nature.

The shores of some Québec lakes are inhabited year-round. Lac Saint-Jean, one of the largest (42 km long and 26 km wide), has a number of towns and villages along its shores. Other lakes, their shores dotted with cottages for fishermen and vacationers, are frequented only in summer. Finally, Québec offers many untouched hinterland lakes—the jealously guarded secrets of lovers of the outdoors. On these lakes, alone with nature, one can fish in a silence that is almost tangible—and often come away with the finest catches!

Québec's rich and varied plant and animal life is there for all to discover and enjoy, but the natural habitat of each species is protected. Québec's thirty-one sanctuaries for migratory birds are situated for the most part on the islands of the St. Lawrence and on the shores of the River itself. The sanctuaries on Ile Bonaventure, in Gaspésie, and at Montmagny (near Québec City), are the most widely known and the most easily accessible. Countless varieties of seabirds nest on Ile Bonaventure, including one of the world's twenty-two gannet colonies. These birds, some 50,000 strong, are more readily observable here than anywhere else. The Cap Tourmente reserve is the stop-over area for 300,000 migrating snow geese every spring and fall. (The birds spend summer in the Far North and winter in the United States.)

The Jardin botanique de Montréal, founded in 1932, has the most extensive plant collection in the world with the exception of those in London and Berlin. In an area of seventy-three hectares, the Jardin features 26,000 species of plants, a tree collection including 3,000 species of ligneous plants, and the largest authentic Japanese garden in North America. The Jardin has classified 2,543 varieties of Québec plants, of which 400 are considered rare.

Québec boasts more than 250 summer camps and outdoor recreation centres, as well as a network of some 20 youth hostels

covering some 3,500 km from northwestern Québec to the Côte-Nord and Gaspésie. All of Québec's nine national parks are open to the public year-round. Hunting is forbidden in these parks as a rule, or is controlled while the season is open. Fishing is allowed, although for certain species a license is required.

Protecting the Environment

In 1977, the Québec government decided to open the natural environment to all members of the public and to involve everyone in nature conservation. For four centuries, exclusive leases to almost all hunting and fishing properties had been granted to companies and private landowners. These leases were all cancelled in 1977, and management of wildlife on some 45,000 sq. km has been handed over to associations of hunters and fishermen.

The 1,200 private, limited-access clubs have been replaced by 71 ZECs (Zones where Exploitation is Controlled). Within the ZECs, limits on the number of users are set only indirectly, to ensure wildlife conservation. Thus, trout fishing or moose hunting (for example) can now be practised by all Quebecers regardless of social position or financial situation.

A good part of Québec's salmon-fishing country (the rivers of Gaspésie are particularly well known) has yet to be made available to the public, although a significant portion of these waters will continue to be reserved for use by the Amerindian peoples, for whom salmon fishing is economically important.

The LG-3 dam: one of Québec's main sources of hydroelectric energy.

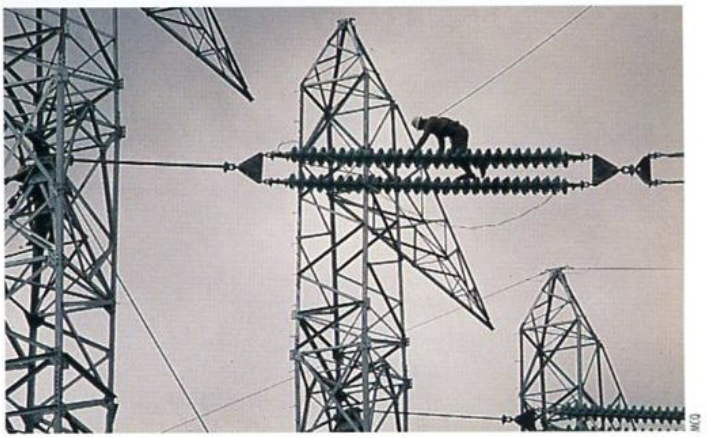
Hydroelectric Dams

Where hydroelectric power is concerned, Québec's resources, organizational ability and expertise are recognized internationally. The James Bay hydroelectric complex, in northern Québec, is one of the largest in the world.

The Manic-Outardes complex is in northeastern Québec. It comprises seven hydroelectric power stations, with reservoirs representing an installed capacity of 5.5 million kW (6.4 million by 1989). The development of two parallel rivers, the Manicouagan and the Aux Outardes, was a monumental undertaking which lasted twenty years. At the time, this was the largest construction site in the world.

The first phase of the La Grande complex (three dams) was finished in 1985. The LG-2 plant, inaugurated in 1979, is the most powerful underground power station in the world, and provides fully half of the electricity coming from James Bay, almost equalling the combined energy production of all seven Manic-Outardes power stations.

The LG-2 dam, 3 km long and 160 m high, created a reservoir measuring 2,835 sq. km. The reservoir feeds a power plant 137 m underground, built into the rock. The project employed 25,575 people when the work was at its peak. Today, the various plants have a combined installed capacity of more than 10,200 MW (12,200 by 1993).



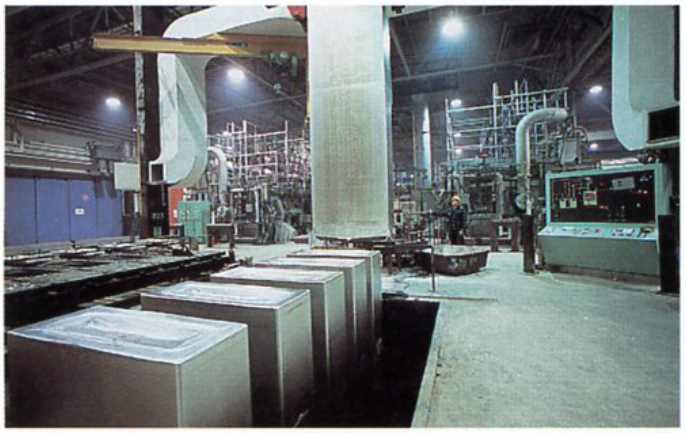
The Daniel Johnson Dam (named after a former Québec premier) is the most imposing of the complex, both by its size and its location. The central arch of this multi-arch dam stands some 214 m high, and could contain a Montréal skyscraper. To supply energy from this complex to consumers in Québec City, Montréal and the northeastern United States, the world's first ultra-high voltage transmission lines were installed (735,000 volts).

Approximately 1,400 km from Montréal, the beautiful La Grande river flows some 800 km to James Bay. This region, covering almost 176,000 sq. km, is equivalent in size to all of Québec south of the St. Lawrence River.

Hydro-Québec

Hydro-Québec is the government corporation reponsible for the production, transmission and distribution of almost all the electricity sold in Québec. It manages an installed capacity of 24,533 MW, and its plants (which include those of Manic-Outardes and James Bay) produced 137,730,200 MWh in 1987.

Hydro-Québec's electricity exports go mainly to two neighbouring Canadian provinces and to the northeastern United States; its rates are among the lowest in North America. A public utility, Hydro-Québec has two subsidiaries: the James Bay Energy Corporation and Hydro-Québec International. Its Institut de recherche en électricité (IREQ), the first of its kind in North America, studies the promotion, transformation, and conservation of energy.



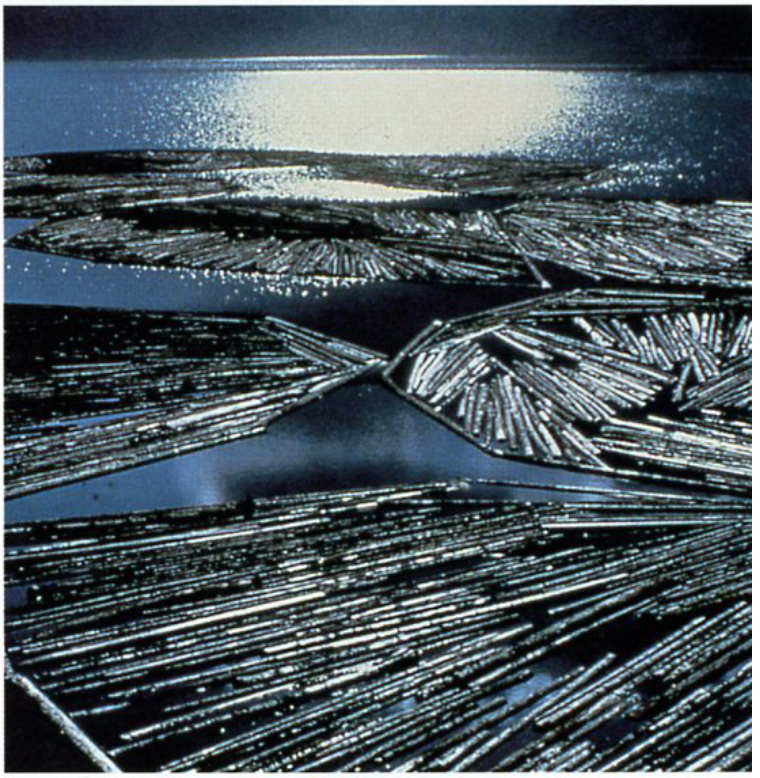
Aluminum ingots on their way to lamination at the casting centre in Arvida (Lac-Saint-Jean).

Another government corporation is active in the energy field. The Société québécoise d'initiatives pétrolières (SOQUIP) is carrying out extensive oil exploration not only in Québec and Western Canada, but also in Hudson Bay and on the Atlantic coast. The Société is also closely involved in the distribution of natural gas, given the government's majority interest in two private Québec firms. This diversification is important, since hydroelectricity meets only 39 percent of Québec's energy needs. Most of Québec's energy is imported in the form of hydrocarbons: hydroelectricity is the only significant source of energy which Québec can develop and produce entirely at home.

The abundance of Québec's hydroelectric resources have made it the leading producer of aluminum among Western industrialized countries. Three of the world's six largest aluminum plants are found in Québec: the Alcan plant (the oldest and largest in Québec) with most of its installations in the Saguenay region; the Reynolds plant at Baie-Comeau (Côte-Nord); and the Pechiney plant at Bécancour on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. Combined production capacity: 1.3 million tonnes.

Commercial Forests

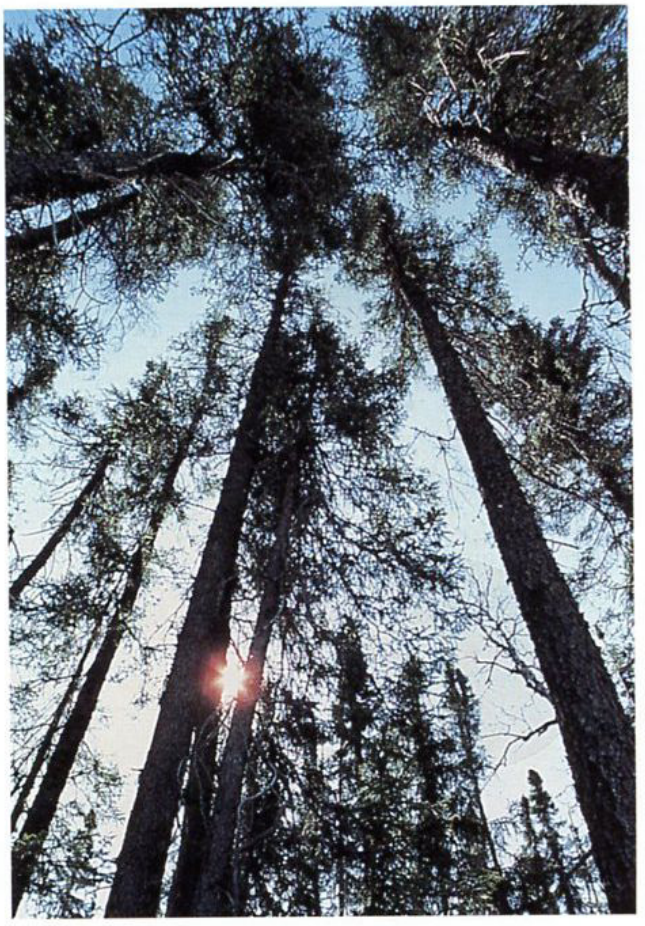
Almost 90 percent of Québec's forest land is public land; its trees feed Québec's sawmills, peeling mills and pulp mills. Almost 40 million cu.m of wood can be cut annually. Private forests yield more than 12 million cu.m annually, almost all of which go to pulp and paper mills.



In the Mauricie, wood is floated to pulp and paper mills.

The importance of the pulp and paper industry can be measured by both the number of jobs it creates and by its contribution to the gross national product. Québec is the world's second largest producer of pulp and paper after the United States. A full 70 percent of its paper and cardboard production alone is exported to the United States, Europe and Latin America. Printing papers constitute the largest export.

Since the earliest days of Québec shipbuilding, when builders took the wood they needed from the banks of the St. Lawrence, the forest industry has concentrated mainly on cutting. If forest resources, inexhaustible as they may seem, are not renewed, their yield fifty or one hundred years hence will be much smaller than it is today. With this in mind, the government has undertaken an extensive program of reforestation (250 million plants in 1988), including measures designed to protect trees against destructive agents such as fire, insects and disease.



Mineral Wealth

The mining industry plays an important role in Québec's economy. Exports in 1987 exceeded $2.7 billion. Metal exports accounted for more than half these revenues, with the rest coming from building materials and industrial minerals. Québec produces almost thirty different mineral substances, including (in order of importance) gold, ilmenite and by-products, iron ore, cement, asbestos and copper.

The mining industry employs an estimated 20,000 people annually. Mining investments in 1987 totalled more than $1 billion, of which $425 million was spent on exploration. Mining is concentrated in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, which accounts for one-quarter of Québec's total production, and in the Côte-Nord region. In 1986, exports abroad totalled more than $1.4 billion in mineral substances.

Québec's mineral wealth is distributed over a huge territory, and remains largely undeveloped. Future potential is thus very considerable, and present mineral reserves ensure a constant supply of raw materials for the industry. The mining sector represents an excellent opportunity for investors.

Québec produces approximately 30 percent of the world's asbestos, for an export value of about $400 million. With the creation of the Société nationale d'amiante, the government became directly involved in the asbestos industry. The aims of the Société are to develop asbestos resources, to process asbestos fibre in Québec, and to find new ways of using and processing this industrial mineral.

Another government corporation, Sidbec, is responsible for almost 70 percent of Québec's steel production. This firm took

a further step toward consolidating its position when it acquired a majority interest in Sidbec-Normines. Through the government-owned Société québécoise d'exploration minière (SOQUEM), Québec takes an active part in the research, exploration, development and transformation of mineral resources.

Over the past 25 years, with a view to accelerating the development of Québec's mineral wealth, the Québec government has created a number of government corporations, nationalized electricity, invested substantially in energy development, established industrial expansion services, built access roads, and set up mining centres.

None of this is to deny the considerable importance of the private sector in this field: the two sectors, public and private, are considered complementary.

A T A G L A N C E

Wildlife

- **Mammals**: 95 species including 24 species of rodents from the field mouse to the beaver, and 10 species of mustelidae (mink, marten and otter) which, along with the beaver, have earned Québec's furs an enviable reputation
- **Cervidae**: caribou, moose, white-tailed deer, others
- **Fish**: 107 fresh-water species. Among the fisherman's favourites are walleye, pike, bass and speckled trout. The St. Lawrence River contains 76 different species of fish
- **Birds**: some 300 species observed regularly or occasionally, including several species of migratory birds
- Commercial hunting is prohibited, except for seal and hare.

Commercial Forests (1985)

- Productive and accessible **public** forest land: .5 million sq. km; marketable volume: almost 3 billion cu. m of softwoods and 775.6 million cu. m of hardwoods; annual cutting potential: 38.85 million cu. m
  Availability of **private forests**: 5.7 million gross cu. m of softwoods and 6.96 million gross cu. m of hardwoods
- **Forest workers**: 10,729. Delivery value: $937 million
- **Wood industries**: 28,603 employees; added value of $643,900,000
- **Pulp and paper industry**: 31,400 employees; total added value of $1.74 billion
- **Paper and cardboard** (1983): 6.3 million tonnes produced for a value of $2.3 billion; 69.4% of production is exported.

Hydroelectricity (1987)

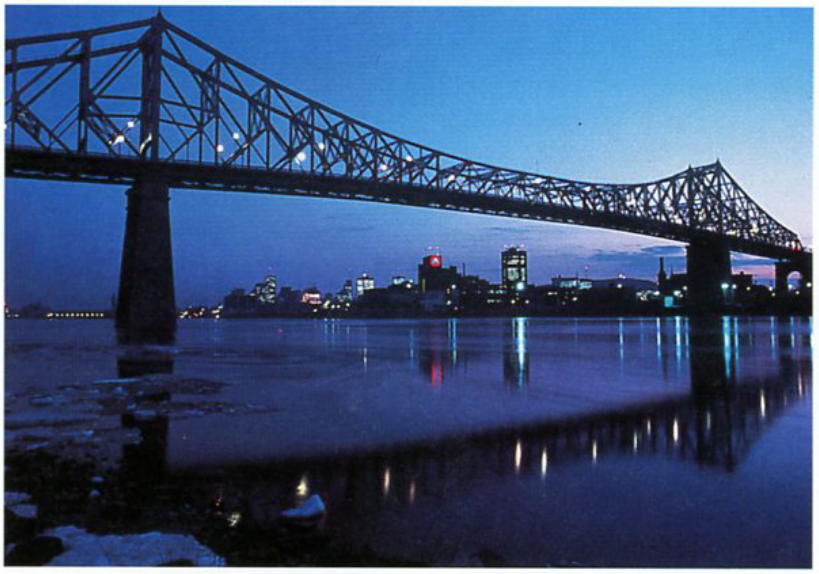
Hydro-Québec (80% of production) for municipal and private use; industrial establishments like Alcan (aluminum) self-supplying
Installed capacity, Hydro-Québec: 24,533 megawatts
Plant production: 137 730 200 MWh
Sales (Québec and abroad): 155 922 450 MWh
Principal clients: northeastern United States, New Brunswick, Ontario
Available energy (produced and purchased): 170 270 374 MWh.

Québec's Energy Requirements

Hydroelectricity met 39% of Québec's energy needs in 1985, oil 44.6%, natural gas 15.2% and coal 1.2%.

Mines and Minerals (1987)

Value of mineral production: $2.7 billion (preliminary figures)
Principal production: gold, iron, copper, zinc, asbestos, titanium, cement, stone, limestone and sand
Exports: $1.4 billion
Exploration: $425 million, with concentration on precious metals.



Montréal: a great French-speaking city. The largest in Québec.
The second-largest in the world.

4

To Each Region its Beauty

Québec's northland, with its wealth of forests, lakes and rivers, is guaranteed to strike the eye of any visitor. But there is beauty in all of Québec: from the Gaspé Peninsula to the majestic fjord called the Saguenay River, which links the St. Lawrence River to lac Saint-Jean, a veritable inland sea. Nor would any visitor want to miss the beauties of the fields and mountains in the Estrie and Laurentides regions. Finally, no tour would be complete without a visit to the cities: Québec City, the capital, with its architectural treasures of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and Montréal, the metropolis.

Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie — Iles-de-la-Madeleine

The Gaspésie region consists of a large peninsula in eastern Québec. Immediately above it, following the course of the St. Lawrence, is the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. The waters of the St. Lawrence River, the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and the Baie des Chaleurs bathe the peninsula's coastline. In the middle of the peninsula runs the Chic-Choc mountain range, where many fine salmon streams have their source.

The coast of Gaspésie is dotted with small fishing villages; next to tourism, fishing is the region's most important industry. Species fished include cod, herring, capelin, smelt and halibut. Logging and (to a lesser extent) farming are also carried out in Gaspésie. The region is well known for its Rocher Percé and its Ile Bonaventure, both centres of a flourishing tourist industry.

The lower St. Lawrence region is farming country, but its proximity to the River gives it an unmistakable touch of the sea. Fishermen catch cod and shrimp offshore, or smelt and mackerel from wharves; the shoreline is dotted with traps. The region is an important part of Québec's rich cultural heritage, and boasts fine hunting and fishing in the hinterland.

Fishing (for lobster and mussels) is also important on the Iles-de-la-Madeleine. This archipelago in the Gulf of St. Lawrence — with its beautiful countryside, temperate climate and white sandy beaches — is attracting increasing numbers of tourists. The salt extracted here represents an important economic interest for the people of the Islands.

The Côte-Nord

The rugged beauty, harsh climate and isolation of the Côte-Nord have been immortalized in song by one of the region's native sons, chansonnier Gilles Vigneault. Situated on the left bank of the St. Lawrence, the Côte-Nord comprises 1,250 km of rugged coastline covered with a coniferous

The Rocher Percé: Gaspésie's pride and joy and the source of legends.

boreal forest revealing the odd Amerindian village or fishing village in the shelter of the bays.

Logging has long been important in the Côte-Nord, but it was not until the fifties and sixties that the region really came into its own, with the beginning of hydroelectric development; as well, mineral development began on rich deposits of iron ore and titanium. These projects led to the development of large industrial ports at Sept-Iles, Port-Cartier and Baie-Comeau, which ship mainly grain (grown in Western Canada) and metals.

Saguenay — Lac-Saint-Jean

The Lac-Saint-Jean region is unique for a variety of reasons. The climate in summer, milder than that of surrounding regions due to the moderating influence of the lake, has helped to foster agriculture. The lake itself is surrounded by high wooded plateaus, and the region is renowned for its blueberries, called bilberries in Europe.

The powerful Saguenay River flows 200 km from Lac Saint-Jean to the St. Lawrence. For the lower part of its course the Saguenay's banks are rugged and steep, giving it the appearance of a fjord. To the north the waterway is navigable year-round, and is an important source of hydro-electricity. This section of the Saguenay has become a major industrial waterway. Chicoutimi, the main city of the region, lies on both sides of the Saguenay; a city of business and services, Chicoutimi is also the location of a Université du Québec regional campus.

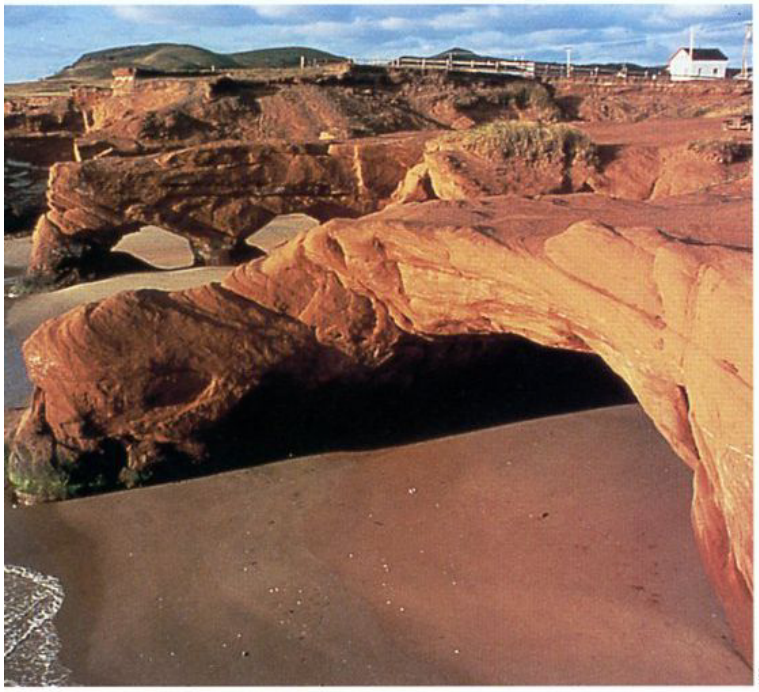
Some of the largest hydroelectric plants and pulp and paper mills in Québec are located in the Saguenay valley. Also found here (in the town of Jonquière) are North America's largest aluminum production facilities, which belong to the multinational firm Alcan.

La Baie, a port city formed by the amalgamation of four municipalities in the Baie des Ha! Ha! area, is also an important industrial centre because of its paper mill (Consolidated Bathurst) and aluminum plant (Alcan).

Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Outaouais

The Abitibi-Témiscamingue region was carved out of the forest early in the century. A rugged land of hard-working people, the region produces a quarter of all Québec's lumber; its zinc, copper and gold mines account for almost half of Québec's mineral production. A land of lumberjacks and miners, the region has two main towns: Val-d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda. The entire area is a paradise for fishermen and big-game hunters.

Further to the south are the Outaouais and Gatineau regions, named after the delightful rivers which flow through them on their way to the St. Lawrence (the Outaouais River is 1,113 km long). These regions are known primarily for their forests, which blaze with colour in autumn, and for the canoe routes of the La Vérendrye Park.



The Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Estrie

The Estrie region is a verdant land of rolling hills and beautiful lakes, on whose shores resort centres have sprung up. Today a meeting-ground for artists and craftspeople, the region was first settled in the eighteenth century by Loyalists who had fled New England after the War of Independence in the United States. Although 85 percent of the population today is French-speaking, most of the towns and villages have kept their English names, and the architectural charm of the white houses is typically New England.

The Estrie region (or the "Eastern Townships" as it is sometimes called) is farming country, but it is better known for its asbestos mines, its textile factories and its tourist industry. Downhill skiing (mainly at Mont Orford) and cross-country skiing, along with a wide range of summer sports, attract tourists from all over the United States, Québec and the rest of Canada. Nestled among the hills is Sherbrooke, an important university town and a major administrative and commercial centre; Sherbrooke is also the region's largest city.

Mauricie

The city of Trois-Rivières lies on the banks of the St. Lawrence between Montréal and Québec City. Behind Trois-Rivières, its wooded hills drained by the mighty Saint-Maurice River (520 km long), is the Mauricie region. Although Trois-Rivières grew up around its harbour, it is also important today as a university town and a major commercial and industrial centre. The city's three large pulp and paper mills (Consolidated Bathurst, CIP, Kruger) have earned it the title of "World's Newsprint Capital."

The road leading north to the forests of the La Tuque region follows the course of the River, which is often covered with log "booms" being floated to sawmills. This is one of the few remaining places in Canada where driving is still used to transport pulpwood downstream. The Mauricie National

Park, accessible from Grand-Mère and Saint-Mathieu (near Shawinigan), offers opportunities for wilderness camping, fishing, canoeing and hunting.

The Capital: Québec City

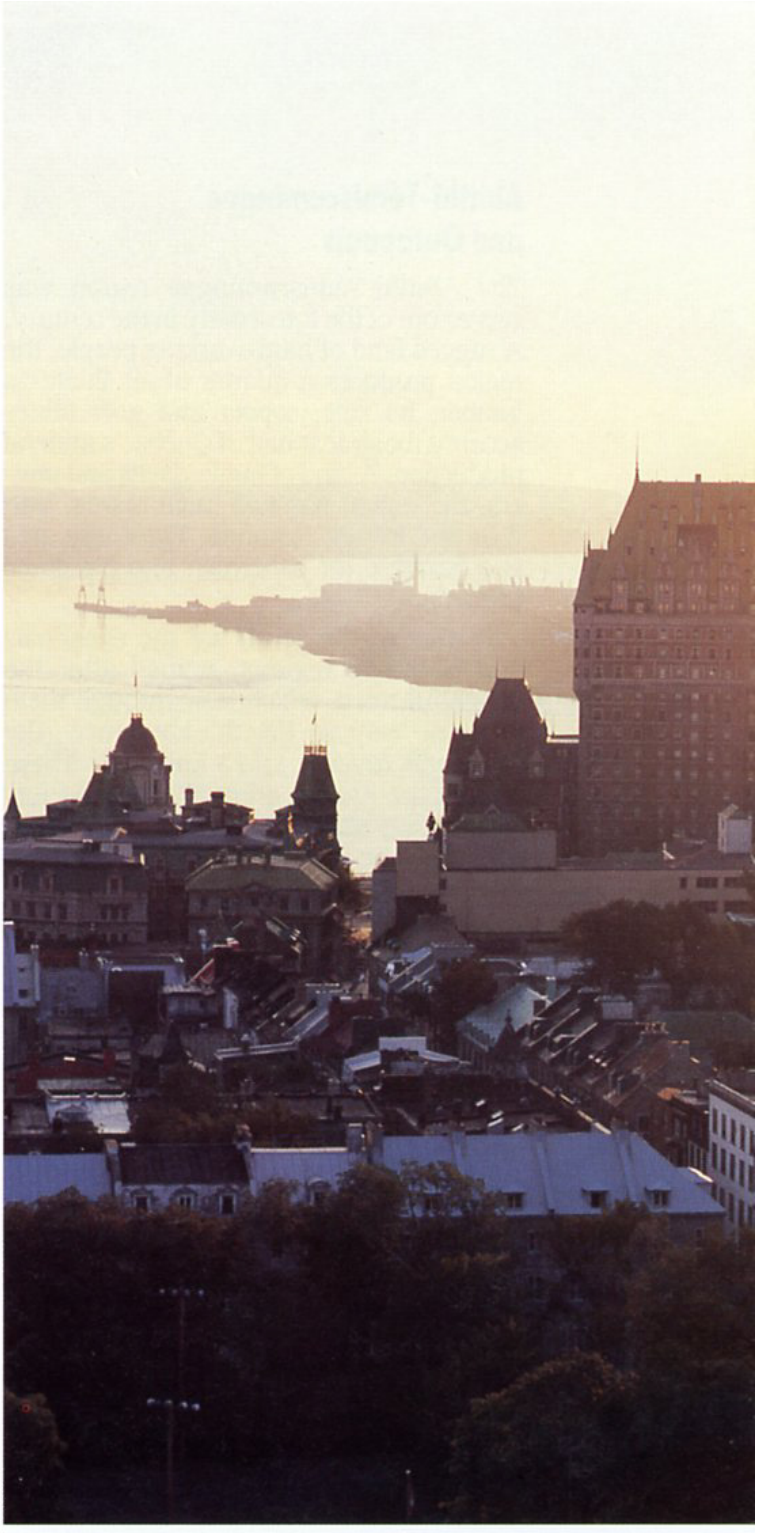
Québec City, perched high on Cap Diamant, a cliff overlooking the St. Lawrence, is the birthplace of New France, and the only walled city in North America. Visitors are entranced by the beauty of its setting, by its French architecture dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, its fortifications and its French atmosphere.

Québec was the capital of the French colony, and on several occasions was attacked by the English during wars between France and England. The final stage of the struggle began in 1759 on the Plains of Abraham above the cliffs. France lost her colony, ceding it to England in a treaty in 1763.

Now Québec City is a modern city: a city of buildings gleaming in the sun, of civil servants and academics; it is also a major port city, and an important commercial and industrial centre.

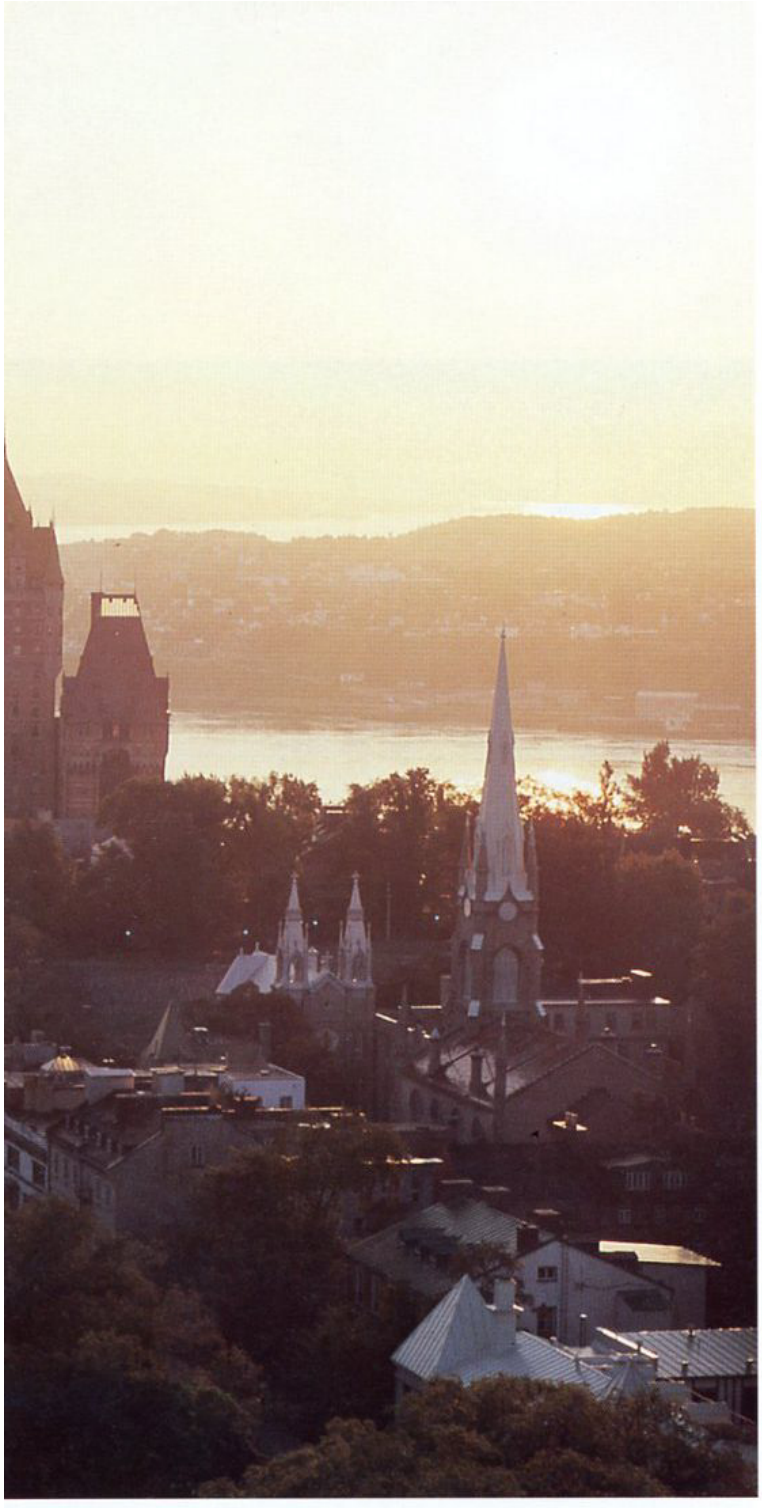
Québec City is the seat of the National Assembly, which is, in turn, the centre of a veritable parliamentary complex of modern design where various government departments and services are lodged.

But Québec City is also tourists enjoying a pleasant stroll in Place Royale at the foot of the cliff; on the Promenade des Gouverneurs overlooking the St. Lawrence; in the spacious, verdant Battlefields Park (the Plains of Abraham); or in the narrow streets of the upper town with their art galleries, boutiques, restaurants, inns and sidewalk cafés. The Château Frontenac hotel, with its elegant towers, overlooks all of the old city. UNESCO recently declared Québec City a world heritage site, in recognition of its historical, architectural, and cultural importance.



Claire Dufour

High above the River, Québec City, with its historic treasures, its dynamic present, its promise for the future.



North of the city stretches the green countryside of the Beaupré coast, with farms nestled against the cliff for protection from the wind. Here the majestic rivière Montmorency plunges over an escarpment to join the St. Lawrence. Off shore lies the Ile d'Orléans, whose praises have been sung by the celebrated poet-chansonnier, Félix Leclerc. Behind the Beaupré coast lie the wooded mountains of the Laurentians, and the fine ski resorts of Mont Sainte-Anne and Petite Rivière — Saint- François.

The Metropolis: Montréal

With a population of some three million in the greater Montréal region, Montréal is not only the largest city in Québec, but the second largest French-speaking city (after Paris) in the world.

The cobblestone streets of Old Montréal bear eloquent witness to its three centuries of history. Here are found art galleries, fashion boutiques, restaurants, discotheques and sidewalk cafés.

But Montréal is also decidedly North American, with skyscrapers dominating the skyline. It is an exciting, cosmopolitan city, where the night life is as important as the routine business of the day.

With more than 3,000 restaurants (of which approximately one hundred specialize in national dishes from countries around the world), Montréal is the gastronomic capital of North America. Its many businesses make it a window-shopper's delight: some of its streets are reserved for stores, and many parts of the city have large, American-style shopping centres.

Montréal is also a centre of cultural creativity: jazz, theatre, modern dance, ballet, cinema, television, radio, classical music (chamber orchestra, symphony orchestra), opera, museums, publishing houses, artists' studios (painters, sculptors and others).

There are four universities in Montréal, all of which are internationally recognized for the quality of their teaching and research in a variety of fields (biotechnology, telecommunications, computer science).

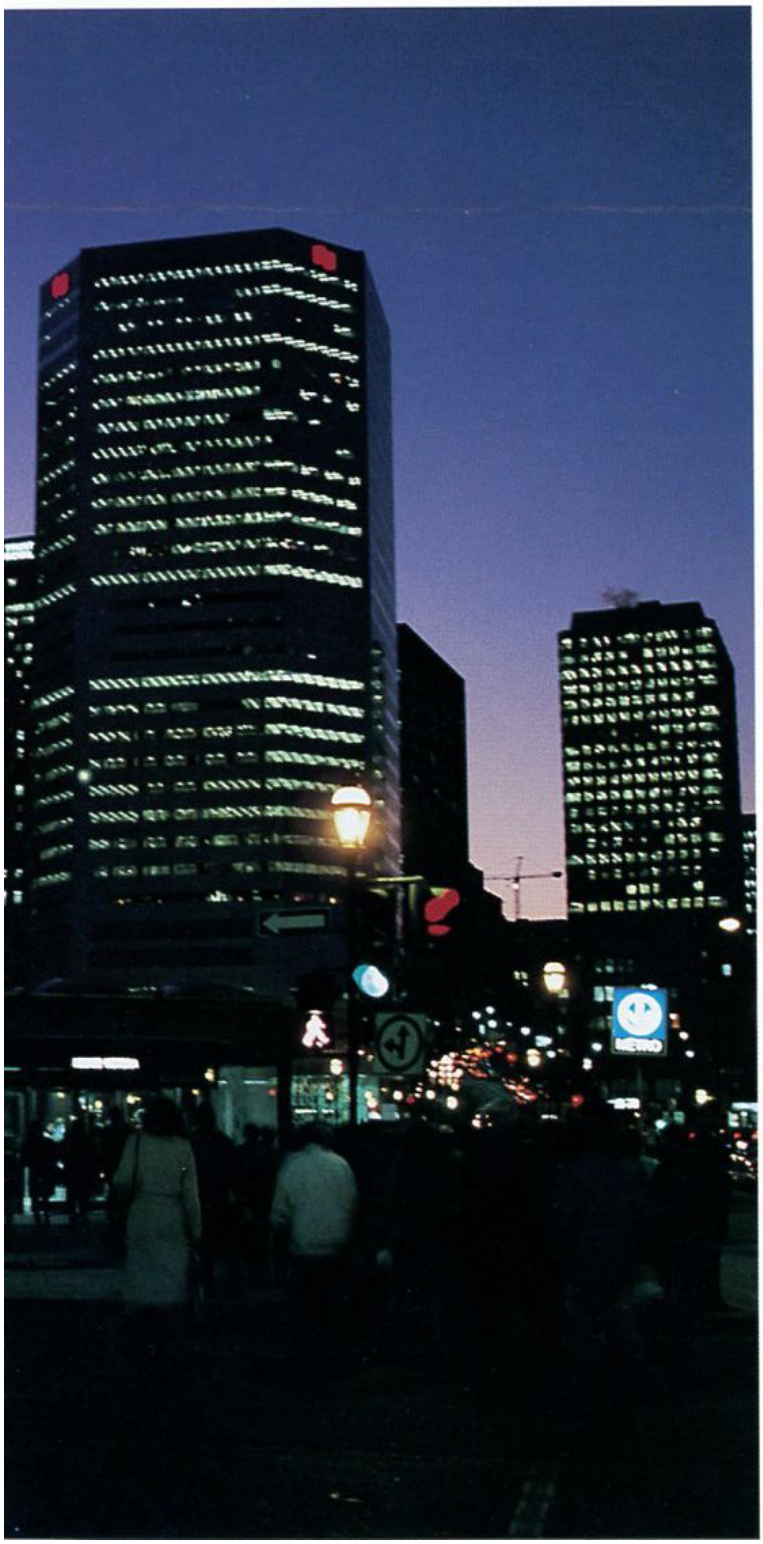
Montréal comprises a 50-km long island and an archipelago of smaller islands, including those of Sainte-Hélène and Notre-Dame. These islands are the site of Man and his World, a permanent international exhibition which grew out of the Universal Exhibition of 1967. The islands also boast a huge flower garden and an amusement park (La Ronde). The Olympic Park, an impressive sports complex of bold design, is located at the east end of the Island of Montréal; built for the 1976 Olympic Games, its stadium has a capacity of over 75,000.

From the summit of Mount Royal, located almost in the centre of the city, Montréal and the St. Lawrence stretch out as far as the eye can see. With trails criss-crossing its wooded hills, with a lake (lac des Castors) near its summit, Mount Royal is a favourite with Montrealers seeking outdoor relaxation in winter or summer.

But this city is also one of North America's major business centres. More than two hundred large companies have their head offices in Montréal, and these are joined by new ones every year. These companies currently include twelve banks, fifteen major insurance firms, several important brokerage firms, the Stock Exchange, and Canada's three major engineering consultant firms: SNC, Lavalin and Moneco. These three companies are among the top fifteen firms of their kind in the world.

Although the greater Montréal region makes up slightly less than 3 percent of Québec's total land surface, it is home to more than half of the population and 70 percent of Québec's manufacturing industries (9,000 firms).

L'Imagier (David Lefa)



The Underground City

Montreal is also characterized by its "underground city," one of the most original of its kind in the world. Its network of passages links comfortable offices overlooking Mount Royal and the St. Lawrence in the new section of the city with the business buildings of Old Montréal.

A network of some 10 km of underground passages leads to 800,000 sq. m of stores, boutiques, restaurants and other businesses. This development largely coincided with the opening of the metro in 1967. The latter extends for more than 64.5 km; several of its 65 stations are architecturally noteworthy.

In the underground city, there is no lack of things to do — and you need never step outside unless you want to! Among the attractions are some 130 restaurants and bars, over 1,000 boutiques, some 20 movie theatres, four theatres (at Place des Arts), two large showrooms, and 26 bank branches. The network also links several major stores, eight hotels, two railway stations and a bus station, a large number of office buildings, parking for 10,000 cars and the Convention Centre.

This convention centre can accommodate up to 6,000 people in the main hall and from 100 to 1,000 people in each of the adjacent halls. The Centre is equipped with the latest communications technology: 72 terminals and ten inquiry stations in strategic locations provide access to two thousand pages of information. The Palais also boasts closed-circuit television systems, a simultaneous translation service in several languages, and link-ups to the principal communications satellites.

Northern Québec

In the northern reaches of Québec lies the tundra, where dwarf birches (30 cm high) and lichens (sometimes called "caribou moss") are the only plants to survive in the permafrost. To the immediate south lies the

taiga, with its sparse boreal forest becoming increasingly dense as it approaches the Laurentian plateau and the more densely populated regions of Québec.

The tundra is home to slightly more than 5,200 Inuit; they live in fifteen villages scattered along 2,750 km of shoreline, along James Bay, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay. The Inuit have relinquished their igloos for prefabricated houses, but still make their living trapping and hunting (seal, caribou, beluga whale, polar bear), and fishing (char, cod, salmon).

The taiga is home to some 8,400 Amerindians in ten communities; they too make their living trapping, hunting and fishing. Their territory boasts an immense forest of considerable commercial potential. In the silence of the North, fewer than eighty days per year are frost-free, and temperatures can fluctuate greatly in less than twenty-four hours. The average daytime temperature in January is -23°C; in July, 11°C.

The Inuit and Amerindian peoples own some 10,700 sq. km of land and hold exclusive hunting and fishing rights on 155,735 sq. km. The rest of the Nouveau-Québec region, some 884,000 sq. km, is public land; here are located a number of outfitters' operations (fishing and hunting) operated by Québec's Inuit and Amerindian peoples. Hunting rights for certain species are reserved for these peoples on this land.

In the forest country to the south of Nouveau-Québec are four medium-sized communities where approximately twenty-five thousand Whites earn their livelihood as forest workers and, more particularly, as miners.

SAA, Paul-Emile Rioux

An Inuit looking for a site to draw water.

The Inuit and Amerindian peoples (Crees and Naskapis) of the North have a system of local and regional government; this was established under agreements signed in 1975 with the Québec and Canadian governments, and with Québec government corporations. The agreements provide for payments of $238 million to be made by both governments over twenty years to the three groups of Native peoples affected by hydroelectric development at James Bay.

There are twenty-nine other Amerindian communities scattered across the rest of Québec. The twenty-five thousand people living in these communities represent eight different Amerindian nations. Another twenty-five thousand people of Amerindian origin live in towns and cities throughout Québec.

A T A G L A N C E

Population and Jobs by Region (1986)

Region	Population	In %	Jobs
Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie	231,638	3.5	80,000
Saguenay – Lac-Saint-Jean	299,864	4.6	119,000
Québec and Beauce	1,047,397	16.0	450,000
Mauricie	446,728	6.8	192,000
Estrie	241,017	3.7	104,000
Montréal	3,713,900	56.8	1,695,000
Outaouais	287,221	4.4	125,000
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	154,737	2.4	64,000
Côte-Nord	103,527	1.6	45,000
Nouveau-Québec	14,247	0.2	—

- Rural population: 1.5 million
- Urban population: 5 million

Main Cities by Region

	Population
Greater Montréal	1,700,000
Québec City	575,000
Hull (Outaouais)	170,500
Chicoutimi-Jonquière (Lac-Saint-Jean)	135,000
Sherbrooke (Estrie)	85,000
Trois-Rivières (Mauricie)	50,000
Rimouski (Bas-Saint-Laurent)	37,000
Baie-Comeau (Côte-Nord)	29,500
Rouyn-Noranda (Abitibi-Témiscamingue)	28,600

Amerindians and Inuit

- Québec's ten nations of Native peoples include the Inuit and nine Amerindian nations: the Abenaki, Algonquin, Attikamek, Cree, Huron, Micmac, Mohawk, Montagnais, Naskapi
- More than 30,000 Amerindians live in 39 villages in territories reserved throughout Québec.

Manufactured Products by Region

- **Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie**: Farm products, fish, wood products, peat, copper
- **Côte-Nord**: Pulp and paper, hydroelectricity, ferrous metals
- **Saguenay — Lac-Saint-Jean**: Pulp and paper, hydroelectricity, aluminum
- **Abitibi-Témiscamingue**: Wood products, gold, copper, zinc
- **Outaouais**: Pulp and paper, wood
- **Estrie**: Clothing, pulp and paper, textiles, metal products, food and beverages
- **Mauricie**: Textiles and clothing, wood products, chemical and electronic products, pulp and paper
- **Québec City and Beauce**: Food and beverages, wood, metal products, farm products, pulp and paper
- **Montréal**: Dairy products, apple products, truck garden produce, computers, aeronautical products, electronic goods, pharmaceutical products, refined petroleum, food, metal products, printing and publishing.

MCQ

Québec's population now exceeds 6.5 million.

5

The Dwellers in the Land

Of Québec's 6.5 million inhabitants, 5.3 million are French-speaking. Québec is the principal French-language enclave on the North American continent. For over two hundred years, and despite the predominance of the English language in North America, Québec has successfully preserved its linguistic and cultural identity.

One-sixth of Québec's population is English-speaking. The English-speaking population is made up of three main groups: the descendants of the English, Irish and Scots who came to Québec after the conquest of New France by England; the descendants of the American Loyalists who arrived in Québec at the end of the eighteenth century; and immigrants from a number of countries, who have chosen English as their language.

Given the proximity of the United States, whose culture, lifestyles and technology make themselves felt across the border (and with whom Québec participates in exchanges on a number of levels—intellectual, industrial, commercial), Québec is resolutely North American.

Surrounded on three sides by English-speaking societies, Québec has had to struggle to ensure the survival of its language, culture and religion. The struggle has been rewarded: Québec is undeniably different from its neighbours without being any less a part of the New World. Québec is decidedly North American, but its people live and think in French.

Safeguarding the Language

When the colony of Canada became a British possession in 1763, the French settlers maintained little contact with their conquerors. They asked only to be allowed to keep their language, culture and religion. In 1791, London divided the colony into two provinces known as Upper and Lower Canada (today Ontario and Québec). In this way London officially recognized the existence of two separate societies, one French, the other English. Prior to this, in 1774, French civil law and the free practice of religion had been re-established.

In 1837-1838, proponents of an independent republic and a distinct French society took up arms in Lower Canada. The British authorities quickly quashed the uprising, and in 1840 London voted in favour of uniting the two Canadas, with English as the only official language.

But the French-speaking people continued to demand their rights and fiercely to defend their language. In 1867, with the

North American though they are, the majority of Quebecers live and think in French.

signing of the British North America Act, the British Parliament effectively acknowledged the co-existence of two distinct societies. The BNA Act created a federation comprising Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (east of Québec). French and English became the official languages of Canada's courts and the federal Parliament.

Québec's subsequent history has been based on the recognition of the French fact in North America—on the recognition of Québec's right to be a French-speaking society. At the same time Québec respects the right of its minority English-speaking population to its own language and culture. Today, French speakers account for only 20 percent of Canada's population; of these, 85 percent live in Québec. As Québec

modernized and consolidated its North American links, it became even more important that it affirm its French identity.

Governments over the past hundred years have taken various steps to achieve this objective. Consider only the most recent actions. In 1974 the Québec National Assembly declared French the official language of Québec. In 1977 the Assembly adopted the Charter of the French Language with a view to ensuring the "quality and influence of the French language" in North America. The Charter sought to "make French the language of Government and the Law, as well as the normal and everyday language of work, instruction, communication, commerce and business".

As Québec began to industrialize, Quebecers saw that the English language was a factor of assimilation in business and industry: jobs (and particularly management positions) were reserved for those who could speak English.

Coming after two other statutes promoting the recognition of French, the Charter is intended as a project for society. It affects all aspects of life. Its aim is to protect the collective rights of the French minority while at the same time respecting individual rights and dealing fairly with ethnic minorities (580,000 English; 635,400 other languages), "whose valuable contribution to the development of Québec it readily acknowledges".

For all this, Québec has not become exclusively French, although the French language has primacy. Thus, in the course of the last few years, businesses have been making efforts to francisize their operations.

In its dealings abroad — with the international business community, for example — Québec uses English or French according to the situation and needs, or according to the mother tongue or second language of the other party.

Québec's linguistic minorities are unquestionably better treated and accorded more respect than any other minorities in Canada, given that their rights are acknowledged both officially and in daily life. Amerindians and Inuit living on their own lands are exempt from the provisions of the Charter of the French Language.

We'll Keep a Welcome

A hospitable and welcoming people, Quebecers have opened their land to the rest of the world. Or as Québec poet and singer Gilles Vigneault has put it:

De ce grand pays solitaire
Je crie avant que de me taire
À tous les hommes de la terre
Ma maison c'est votre maison
Entre mes quatre murs de glace
Je mets mon temps et mon espace
À préparer le feu, la place
Pour les humains de l'horizon
Et les humains sont de ma race.

(From *Mon pays*)

Although Québec has been receiving immigrants since the first days of the colony, it was not until the end of the Second World War that the doors were opened to large numbers of them. Québec was responding to its own need for labour and, at the same time, to the pleas of thousands of refugees.

Since 1945, more than half a million people from some eighty different nations have decided to make Québec their home. In the last twenty years, Québec and the rest of Canada have been among the leaders in receiving political and economic refugees. Between 1968 and 1982, sixty thousand immigrants arrived from Czechoslovakia, Haiti, Uganda, Lebanon, Chile, Southeast Asia and other countries.

Québec has eleven immigration offices abroad, and applies its own selection criteria. It is always on the lookout for specialized workers and for immigrants who can invest in their new country. Québec favours the unification of families and offers a special program to welcome refugees.

School children arriving in Québec are given special introductory classes in which they learn French (if needed) and are introduced to Québec's school system. Newly arrived adults learn French at Québec's Centres d'orientation et de formation des immigrants (COFI). The Centres offer a wide range of other services free of charge: reception, vocational information, social integration.

A number of associations have been set up by Québec's ethnic minorities to provide a variety of services: translation services, emergency financial aid, general information, information on religious matters, and cultural activities. Some twenty foreign-language newspapers are published in Québec; there are also several multilingual programs on radio stations and one multilingual television station.

Claire Dubois

Québec has concluded agreements with a number of countries regarding bursaries for education. However, students from all countries are permitted to enroll in Québec's colleges and universities, provided they obtain a visitor's permit and pay certain tuition fees.

Educational Reform

In the mid-sixties, Québec reformed its educational system to make it more responsive to the needs of the modern world. Today, more than 1.4 million students from kindergarten to university are reaping the benefits of this on-going reform.

Québec has two free public school systems (English and French) extending from elementary school through to college. These institutions are Catholic or Protestant. Approximately 9 percent of Québec's student population attends private schools. These schools are run along the same linguistic and confessional lines as the public schools, with the difference that the religious affiliation may be other than Catholic or Protestant. Tuition fees are required, and the private school system is also heavily subsidized by the government.

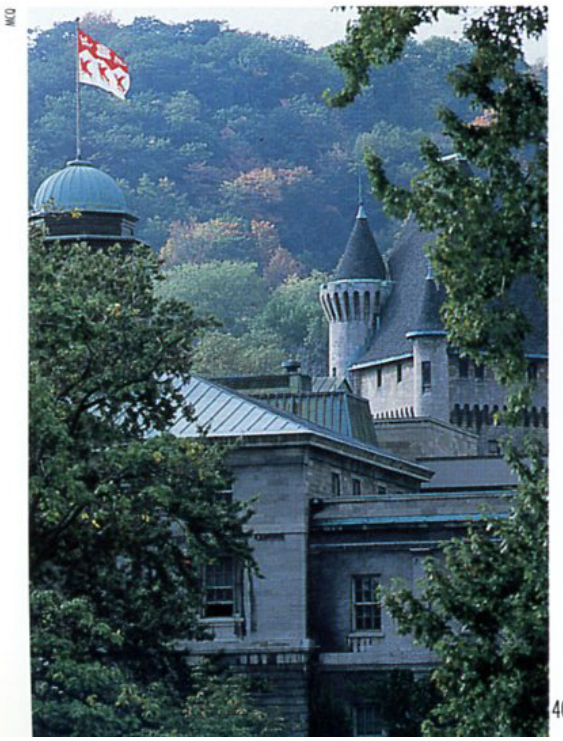
Tuition fees are also required at the university level, although here again the government assumes a growing share of the cost of education through a system of grants to institutions and of student loans and bursaries. Québec's colleges ("Cegeps") offer a two-year general program leading to university studies, and a three-year careers program leading directly to the labour market.

Three of Québec's six private universities are English. The Université du Québec was established by the government. This decentralized institution, with campuses in six different regions, provides instruction to 78,538 students, making it the largest university in Québec. It comprises eleven component parts: six regional campuses, two research institutes and two schools for advanced studies (public administration and high technology) as well as a university providing instruction to students living in outlying areas (the "Télé-université" which provides instruction by telephone, through correspondence courses, and through televised courses).

In order to help immigrants integrate into a society that is overwhelmingly French-speaking, the Charter of the French Language provides for the admission of immigrant children into the French school system. Students who have been attending an English school since August 1977 are entitled to remain in the English system, as are students whose older brother or sister was studying in the English system at this time. Finally, children are entitled to enroll in the English system if one of their parents received his or her elementary education in English and was living in Québec in August, 1977. In this way the Charter respects the right of Québec's English-speaking families to preserve their culture. Decrees determine the admissibility to the English school system of students from other Canadian provinces.

Foreign students living in Québec temporarily have the choice of either system. Instruction in the student's mother tongue is provided within the French system to speakers of languages other than French.

McGill University in Montréal is one of three English-language universities in Québec.



Québec's loan and bursary program encourages the pursuit of college and university education.

Joël Le Jeune

Religion

Almost all the world's religions are represented in Québec's immigrant population. These religions are practised in temples, churches and other places of worship in accordance with the needs of their adherents.

The sixteenth century French colony was founded in the name of "God and the King," and French-speaking Quebecers have since maintained their profound ties to the Catholic faith. Indeed, the French language and the Catholic religion have become indissociably linked in Québec; after the conquest of 1760, the clergy set itself up as the guardian and defender of both.

Anglicanism and Protestantism appeared in Québec after 1760; Judaism became established in the early twentieth century. In recent years thousands of refugees have brought a variety of Oriental faiths to Québec. Today's censuses show that 90 percent of Quebecers declare their religious faith as Catholic.

In both the French and English school systems, parents have the right to exempt their children from religious instruction in favour of "neutral" moral instruction.

The Quality of Life

Québec has adopted a number of measures intended to promote and protect the fundamental rights of its citizens. Its Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms is based on the Universal Declaration, which it has also endorsed. Rights and freedoms are guaranteed by the Charter, which recognizes the political, legal, economic, social and human rights of all Quebecers. The Commission des droits (rights commission) sees to it that the provisions of the Charter are respected.

The Conseil du statut de la femme (council on the status of women) advises the government in matters concerning the status of women, equality of the sexes, and women's rights.

The Protecteur du citoyen (public protector or ombudsman) acts as an intermediary between the individual and the state; the ombudsman's task is to ensure that the individual's rights are respected in dealings with the government. The Comité de la protection de la jeunesse (youth protection committee) defends the rights of children, and ensures that children receive the social, educational, legal and other services to which they are entitled.

There are three consumer protection agencies in Québec. The Code des professions (professional code) defines the role of professional associations, specifies their obligations, and has created the Office des professions to watch over their activities. The Régie du logement (rent board) settles disputes between landlords and tenants. The Office de la protection du consommateur (consumer protection board) deals with complaints from consumers and regulates buying and selling in a number of areas. This agency can also initiate legal proceedings.

Claire Dufour

All Quebecers, regardless of their financial means, have access to the legal system: the system of legal aid provides for lawyers' services paid by the State in accordance with financial need. Québec's small claims court allows individuals to bypass the more complicated procedures of the higher courts in cases involving small sums. Finally, under Québec's class action legislation, an individual can go before the court to claim not only his or her individual rights, but also those of a group of people who consider themselves similarly wronged.

Environmental services have been established in urban industrial centres and in Québec's less populated regions. The task of these services is to protect the environment—its air, water, soil, etc. Quebecers are invited to participate directly in the protection of their environment.

A T A G L A N C E

Demographic Notes (1986)

Total population: 6,532,460
Men: 3,201,220
Women: 3,331,240
Children and adolescents 0 - 14 years: Boys: 687,975; Girls: 653,060
French in Québec: 5,316,925 (81.3% of the French-speaking population of Canada)
English in Québec: 580,030
Other mother tongues: 393,725
Multilingual: 241,785

Immigration

Citizens born outside Québec (1981): Europe: 325,495; North America and the Antilles: 84,620; Asia: 64,415; Africa: 32,830; Central and South America: 16,290.
Refugees admitted from 1968 to 1986: 56,000
Immigration from 1981 to 1986: 107,00; from Asia: 36.3%; from Europe: 24%; from the Antilles: 16.6%; from Latin America: 9%; from Africa: 8.1%; from North America: 5.6%.
Québec immigration offices abroad: Bangkok, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Lisbon, London, Mexico City, New York, Paris, Port-au-Prince, Rome.

Education (1986-1987)

Public sector: 1,039,483 pupils in elementary and secondary school (2,551 schools); 157,955 pupils enrolled at the college level (46 colleges of which 39 French-language, 6 English-language, and 1 both languages). Government schools: 55

Private sector: 96,981 pupils enrolled in elementary and secondary school (247 schools), and 19,600 pupils enrolled at the college level (47 colleges)

Adult education: elementary, secondary and college-level: 194,300 people in 1985-1986.

University Enrolment (1986-1987)

Université du Québec	78,538
Université de Montréal	56,084
McGill University (Montréal)	26,420
Concordia University (Montréal)	25,754
Université Laval (Québec City)	35,407
Université de Sherbrooke	14,166
Bishop's University (Lennoxville)	1,762
Total:	238,131
Part-time students:	122,405

Claire Dufour

Québec has set its economic aims high.

6

A Working People

At various national and sectoral economic summits over recent years, Québec has decided to place more emphasis on its business sector (including financing and foreign trade), and to centre its development strategy increasingly on natural resources.

With a highly-trained workforce and a wealth of natural resources, Québec's economic potential is excellent. Because the level of schooling among Quebecers corresponds to the North American average, and the level of savings is extremely high, the business sector is expanding vigorously.

Québec's ministère du Commerce extérieur et du Développement technologique (department of foreign trade and technological development) supports firms which export goods and encourages small and medium-sized businesses to enter export markets in all sectors. Québec currently exports 40 percent of its total production, with much of this going to the United States. One of the aims of the Department is to further develop these markets and to explore new ones. Québec's economic strategy is designed to accelerate the development of resource-related industries, and to encourage the processing of these resources at home. Projects are currently underway in a variety of fields: organic chemistry, metal refining, petrochemistry, steel manufacturing, computer technology and transportation.

The service sector provides more jobs (2 million) in Québec than any other sector. This is followed by the manufacturing and construction industries, which provide almost 25 percent of Québec's jobs, and the primary sector (particularly agriculture) with 5 percent.

Almost 80 percent of Québec's manufacturing industries employ fewer than fifty workers. This sector, however, is making significant progress on international markets in the field of high-technology equipment: aircraft, locomotives, diesel engines, subway and railway cars, aeronautical equipment and space technology.

The industries related to high technology are currently among the most dynamic of the secondary sector, particularly in the fields of computer technology, office systems and telecommunications.

Almost two hundred manufacturers of electronic equipment are located in Québec, along with three hundred firms specializing in computer services. A number of small firms are making Québec a leader in the fields of French-language software,

courseware design, and software creation for the management and control of public utilities and services (e.g., electricity, communications).

In 1987, shipments of manufactured goods totalled almost $65 billion. Non-durable goods consisted mainly of food products, paper and paper-related products, and chemical products. Topping the list of durable goods were refined metals, transportation products, metal products, electric products and electronic products.

The Société générale de financement (SGF) is a government corporation which manages a group of sizable manufacturing firms in leading sectors: logging, lumber, paper, petrochemicals, biotechnology, energy-related equipment.

Finance

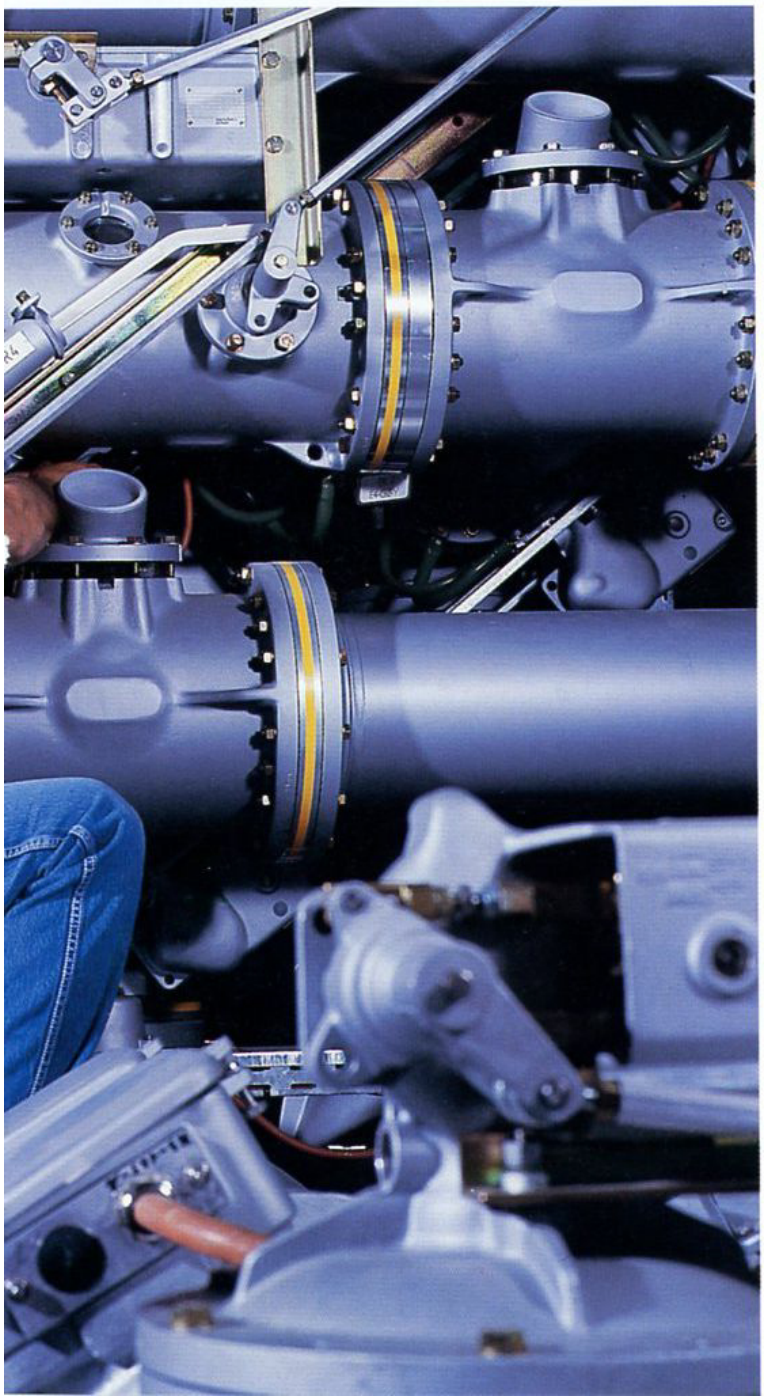
To be sure, the vitality of the service sector is largely related to public administration and business, but it is also related to the financial sector. This includes some 1,500 financial institutions and almost 450 insurance companies. Quebecers have invested more than $231 billion in life insurance.

Another important element of Québec's economic potential is savings. The Mouvement Desjardins, with millions of members and almost 1,400 "caisses populaires" (savings and credit cooperatives), is a powerful force. The caisses populaires form eleven federations; their consolidated assets at the end of 1986 totalled $25.2 billion.

The Caisse de dépôt, set up by the government, administers Québec's public pension plan. Today, the Caisse manages more than $25 billion, making it one of the largest managers of public funds in Canada. Although the Caisse is a government corporation, it maintains a largely autonomous management and investment policy.

François Bouley

François Bouley



The Workforce

Labour organization in Québec is influenced by the actions of three main partners: business, the unions and the State. Since only 30 percent of Québec workers are unionized, minimum labour standards for most of the workforce are set by the government.

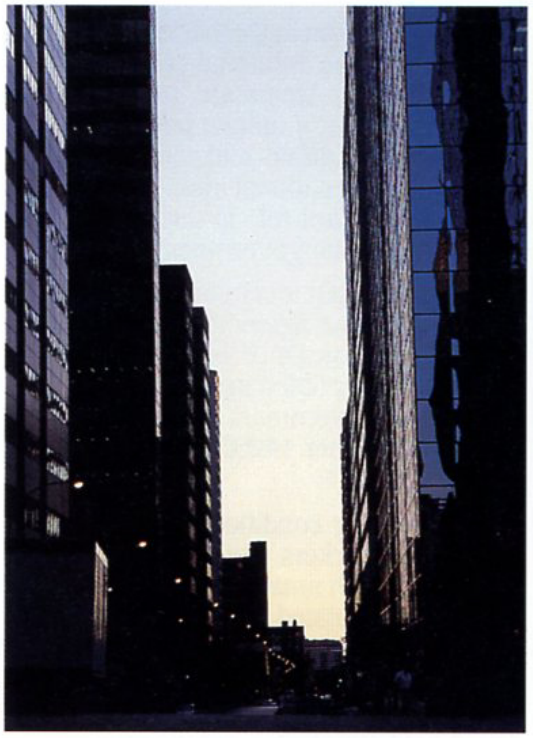
Trade unionism in Québec dates from the beginning of the industrial era, and has its roots in both American and European thought. Québec's unions help to manage their members' affairs and defend their economic and occupational interests; they also play an important role in discussions with business and the government.

In 1987, labour and management signed 7,500 collective agreements lasting from two to four years. Once working conditions have been negotiated in specific regions or sectors, the government applies these conditions to another 140,000 non-unionized workers.

But working conditions for most non-unionized workers are set in individual contracts which must respect the minimum standards stipulated in legislation. In 1987 these (regularly updated) standards were as follows: a minimum hourly wage of $4.55; a work week of forty-four hours; seven paid statutory holidays annually; at least two weeks of paid vacation annually; various rest periods and leave periods; and a number of premiums and indemnities.

Women in Québec, regardless of collective agreements which may or may not apply, are entitled to a minimum of eighteen weeks uninterrupted maternity leave

without job loss. Unemployment insurance benefits are paid during this period. The Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms affirms the principle of equal pay for equal work, and further stipulates that, in the workplace as elsewhere, discrimination based on sex, race or religion will not be tolerated.



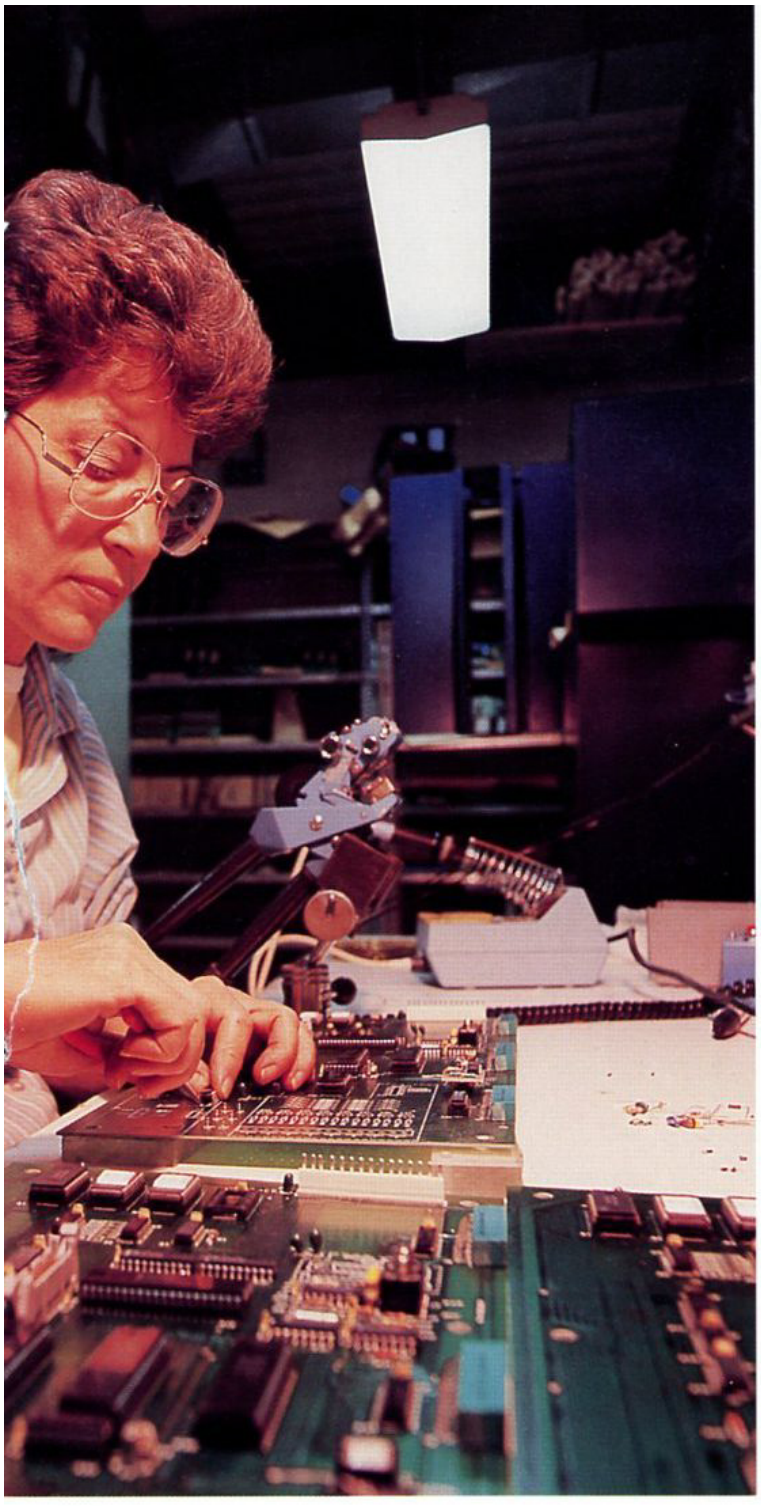
Micheline Levesque

Foreign Firms in Québec

Québec's workforce is large, diversified and hardworking. Multinational manufacturing firms characterize the Québec worker as an adaptable, highly productive individual who derives satisfaction from a job well done.

François Bouley

A growing number of women in the labour force are working in high tech and data processing.



These, clearly, are important considerations for those wishing to make investments or set up businesses in Québec. With its population of savers (Quebecers are among the world's most diligent savers), Québec's financial resources are substantial. Exports are facilitated by modern and efficient air, land and maritime transport systems.

The Québec government provides financial and technical aid to businesses wishing to establish themselves in Québec, and to those wishing to modernize or expand their operations. The ministère du Commerce extérieur et du Développement technologique is represented in most Québec offices and delegations in the rest of Canada and abroad. Its role is to promote trade with Québec and make known the advantages of establishing businesses in Québec.

Québec Abroad

Québec has had permanent representatives abroad since the opening of its office in New York in 1943. In the sixties, other offices were opened in Paris, London and Milan. Québec now has some thirty offices or delegations in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

These offices concern themselves with a number of economic matters: industrial missions, exchanges of specialists, investments, fairs and exhibitions, finance and commercial activities. They also promote the products and works of Québec artists, inventors, producers and publishers.

Québec also concludes agreements on social security, on the protection of Quebecers abroad and of immigrants visiting or living in Québec, and on exchanges of specialists with other countries.

Québec subscribes to the humanitarian, economic and social objectives of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It works actively to protect the rights of individuals, workers, refugees and social minorities, and to improve the quality of health care.

Québec has concluded some fifty agreements on cultural, technical and economic cooperation with most European countries and approximately fifteen African countries; other agreements have been concluded with the federal and state governments of the United States (approximately 10 individual states) and with several Latin American and Asian countries.

One of Québec's main objectives abroad is certainly to increase its ties with the rest of the world. Another equally important objective is to foster the recognition of Québec's French identity through participation in multilateral programs of the international francophone community. Québec seeks to promote the French language as a modern and effective instrument with which to convey technological and scientific knowledge.

In 1987, Québec hosted the second Francophone Summit; use of the French language was the common denominator among the forty-one participating countries.

René Tardif

A T A G L A N C E

Standard of Living (1986)

- Gross domestic product per capita: $17,819 in constant dollars
- 9th highest standard of living in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Average individual earnings: $21,853 per annum.

Employment Sectors (1986)

Service sector: 2,032,200 jobs (71%); Secondary sector: 705,700 jobs (24.6%); Primary sector: 127,500 jobs (4.4%).

Most important manufacturing sectors in terms of numbers of jobs:

Clothing and textiles	107,300
Food and beverages	56,000
Transportation equipment	47,100
Printing and publishing	42,300
Paper and related products	38,900
Electrical products	37,200
Metal products	35,500

Labour Force

Men: 1,877,000; women: 1,344,000; total: 3,221,000.

Trade Unionism (1987)

Independent trade unions: 227,658 (27%)
Seven groups of affiliated unions (all trades): 540,951 (64.2%)
Teachers: 70,952 (8.4%)
Farm workers: 2,853 (0.3%)
Total: 842,414 (29.3% of the labour force)
40 decrees cover 140,808 other workers
Collective agreements: 7,500
Conseil du patronat (an employers' organization): 127 member associations.

Banking (1987)

- 1,230 branches of Canadian chartered banks and 40 branches of foreign banks
- Mouvement Desjardins: 26,500 employees; 4.2 million members; total savings: $30 billion; total assets: $34 billion; 1,345 caisses populaires. (The Mouvement Desjardins is a cooperative network offering a wide range of financial services: insurance, trusts, investment, training and continuing education, industrial and commercial credit, assistance for international development, foundation for educational and social action assistance.)

Québec officially adopted the fleur-de-lis flag 40 years ago.

7

A Democratic Society

Québec's history is reflected in its legal and parliamentary systems: its Civil Code is French (from the Code Napoléon), while its Criminal Code is British-based. Its parliamentary system is also modelled on the British system, and operates within federal-type institutions. Outsiders are often baffled by the complexity of the system which Quebecers have lived under for over two hundred years.

Canada came into being with the British North America Act of 1867. This Act combined a parliamentary system of the British type with a federal structure: two levels of government, federal and provincial, each considered autonomous in certain specific areas of activity. It was only in 1968 that Québec abolished its Legislative Council (the British "Upper House") and that its Legislative Assembly (the British "Lower House") became the National Assembly. Earlier, in 1948, Québec had officially adopted the fleurdelisé as its flag.

Since 1867, Canada has grown from four provinces to ten. The history of federal-provincial relations has largely been a matter of establishing an acceptable balance of powers between the two levels of government. Motivated by its struggle to ensure the survival of its language and culture, Québec has become the champion of provincial rights in all areas. A number of nationalist movements and parties had come to life in Québec over the years before the founding of the Parti Québécois in 1968. The Parti Québécois, which promotes political sovereignty and an economic association with the rest of Canada, formed the government from 1976 to 1985.

In 1982, Canada brought its Constitution home from London, where it had been for the last 115 years. This symbolic action officially affirmed Canada's independence, and made it easier for the federal government in Ottawa to amend the Constitution as the need arises.

Every four years (on average) Quebecers over eighteen years old elect the Members who will represent them in Québec's National Assembly. Similar elections are held to determine who will represent Québec ridings in the federal Parliament in Ottawa.

Voting in Québec is based on the single-ballot, majority-vote system. There are 122 electoral ridings in Québec, and the party which has the largest number of its candidates elected forms the government. The leader of that party, also elected, becomes the Premier. In principle Québec's is a multi-party system, but elections have invariably boiled down to a struggle

between two main parties, with one or two other parties collecting only a handful of votes. Women have had the vote in Québec since 1940.

The manner in which the National Assembly carries out its legislative tasks is based on the British parliamentary tradition, albeit with certain differences. Parliamentary committee hearings, for example, are frequently held, with discussion, public debate, and the presentation of briefs by individuals or groups. The debates of the National Assembly are televised daily.

Executive power rests with the Conseil des ministres (cabinet), which is appointed and presided over by the Premier. The cabinet answers to the National Assembly, and keeps its power as long as it has the confidence of the majority of Members. (The maximum term for any government is five years, at which time an election must be called.) There are approximately thirty government departments, although this number may vary according to the priorities of any given government.

René Trudel

The National Assembly of Québec, seat of the government.

The Municipal Communities

Québec contains more than 1,500 local municipalities. These largely autonomous entities are entitled to levy real estate taxes. Revenues from these taxes provide them with more than 90 percent of their budgets.

These municipalities are extremely variable: some are very small, and are spread out in rural and outlying regions. In contrast, other municipalities — in regions with a much larger population (e.g., the Montréal and Québec City regions, as well as the region of Hull which is situated near the federal capital of Ottawa) — become "urban communities".

These metropolitan governments are supra-municipal institutions that group, plan and manage police, public transit and similar services. This makes for better quality and increased effectiveness, while respecting the limited financial resources of smaller municipalities.

There are also 95 regional municipalities (RCMs); each is directed by a council composed of the mayors of the local municipalities that make up the RCM in question. Each municipality is directed by a mayor and a varying number of councillors elected by a single-ballot, majority-vote system.

Given the size and diversity of Québec's territory, it was necessary that the government decentralize its administration and institutions. Formal discussions (in the

form of regional summits) have taken place between the government and the agencies involved in the development of the 16 administrative regions set up by the government. The summits, hosted by different regions in turn, are attended by representatives from the economic, cultural, social and municipal sectors. The summits result in formal agreements on regional development between the government and the other partners.

Services to the Public

Since 1961, when hospital insurance was introduced, successive Québec governments have set up a social security program that is unique in North America. The State provides a variety of services to cope with illness, unemployment, old age, indigence or disability.

All Quebecers, regardless of financial means, are entitled to hospital insurance and health insurance. This means free medical, surgical and optometric services. For the elderly and the disabled, and for some young people, it also means free medication, prostheses, orthopedic articles and treatment, and dental care.

Québec's social security program also provides for income support or replacement. Social aid benefits are paid to individuals and heads of families unable to provide for basic necessities. Québec's employment centres assist those who are looking for work or seeking employment counselling or services. Québec's employers and employees contribute to the unemployment insurance fund, which is administered by the federal government. Both the Canadian and the Québec governments offer employment assistance programs: placement, complementary training programs, retraining and upgrading.

When the flow of regular income is interrupted by the retirement, disablility or death of a spouse, Québec's pension plan provides financial protection for workers and their dependants. All Quebecers between 18 and 65 contribute to the plan, provided their income exceeds a certain amount. For low wage-earners, assistance is available in the form of a work income supplement: benefits increase in accordance with the number of dependants.

Persons aged 65 and over receive the old age pension and a guaranteed income supplement. If they are unable to live either alone or with their families, they may choose to live in any one of a number of public and private retirement homes in Québec. (These are available for a small rental fee.)

Health services are free for all citizens.

Families with one or more children under 18 receive family allowance payments; the amount depends on a variety of factors, including the number of children and the age of each child. Québec also has a network of partially subsidized public and private day care centres. These are open to all families, regardless of whether the mother works outside the home.

All employers contribute to Québec's workmen's compensation fund, which was set up in 1931. This fund is administered by a paragovernmental body which must also work in the field of prevention and provide accident victims with the care and services they require. The same agency provides financial, psychological and other assistance to crime victims.

Finally, Québec has a government-administered no-fault automobile insurance plan. Compensation is paid to those who, because of an accident, suffer bodily injury, incur a temporary loss of income, or face the loss of a family member. Owners of motor vehicles must be insured for property damage.

Québec's social programs had their beginnings in the Quiet Revolution of the sixties, when Québec underwent a veritable social, economic and cultural awakening. Today, as part of its income security program, the Québec government pays over $10 billion annually in long- and short-term assistance (allowances and benefits of various kinds) to some two million people.

Michèle Lévesque

The new Court House in Québec City, located in the Lower Town.

Decentralization and Democratization

The reform of Québec's health and social services, initiated approximately twenty years ago, has had a number of results: it has made these services accessible to everyone; it has encouraged the participation of the population; and it has made care and services more responsive to the needs of each region.

Québec's regional health and social service councils form a link between the population, the government and health care institutions. These include hospitals, social service centres, reception centres and a network of local community service centres.

Each institution is headed by a board of directors formed of representatives from the public, members of different socio-economic groups, and representatives of the institution and its professionals and workers. Priority services include prevention, health care, and meeting the needs of specific groups: the young, the elderly, the disabled and the chronically ill.

Life expectancy in Québec is 75.8 years: 72 years for men and 79.7 years for women (1987).

A T A G L A N C E

Québec Government Departments

Cultural Affairs; Municipal Affairs; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Supply and Services; External Trade and Technology; Cultural Communities and Immigration; Communications; Treasury Board; Executive Council; Education; Energy and Resources; Higher Education and Science; Environment; Finance; Industry and Trade; Justice; Recreation, Fish and Game; Manpower and Income Security; International Relations; Revenue; Health and Social Services; Solicitor General; Tourism; Transport; Labour.

«Delegated» ministers are responsible for the following areas:

Intergovernmental Affairs (federal-provincial); The Status of Women; Forests; Mines and Native Peoples; Fisheries; Small and Medium-sized Businesses; Privatization; Electoral Reform.

Québec Government Corporations

Hydro-Québec; Loto-Québec; Sidbec; Société de développement de la Baie James (SDBJ) (James Bay development); Société de développement des industries de la culture et des communications (SODICC) (cultural and communications industries); Société de récupération, d'exploitation et de développement forestiers (REXFOR) (forest development); Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ) (wine and liquor retail outlets); Société des établissements de plein-air du Québec (SÉPAQ) (outdoor recreation); Société des traversiers du Québec (STQ); Société générale de financement (SGF) (general investment corporation); Société immobilière du Québec (SIQ) (real estate); Société nationale de l'amiante (SNA) (asbestos); Société québécoise d'exploration minière (SOQUEM) (mineral exploration); Société québécoise d'initiatives agro-alimentaires (SOQUIA) (agricultural development); Société québécoise d'initiatives pétrolières (SOQUIP) (oil and gas exploration).

Social Services (1985)

Approximately 40% of Québec's budget is used for health and social services. This amounts to $10 billion annually, or $1,540 for each individual.
Income security: $2.6 billion; health and rehabilitation: $7.2 billion; housing assistance: $290.5 million
Doctors (specialists and general practitioners): 1.96 per 1,000 people; dentists: 0.38. Number of druggists: 4,200
Establishments: 228 hospital centres, 554 reception centres (young people, the elderly, the disabled), 145 community service centres and 14 social services centres.

Main Political Parties Since 1940

The Union nationale, the Parti libéral du Québec and the Parti Québécois have all formed the government at one time or another.

Employees in the Public and Parapublic Sectors (1987)

Public service: 59,947; Education: 132,978; Social Affairs: 140,781; Total: 333,706.

The Cirque du Soleil sets up its big top both at home and abroad.

8
Cultural Life

In four and a half centuries, Quebecers have succeeded in forging a culture and a way of life altogether worthy of their multi-faceted heritage. Québec's unique culture finds its origins in the art (passed down by the Amerindian peoples) of coming to terms with the natural environment, and in the vital need to express and to communicate.

The French spoken in Québec is very similar to that generally referred to as "international" French. If visitors are struck by certain differences, one need only consider that it is always the other fellow who has an accent. In Québec's regions, and in certain sectors of the population, spoken French has a classical flavour, reflecting slightly the influence of English; certain traces still remain of seventeenth century popular French, handed down from generation to generation. All this makes for a language rich and poetic. The language differences between Quebecers and natives of France are no greater than those which exist between Americans and Britishers, Mexicans and Spaniards, or Brazilians and Portuguese.

The Artistic Awakening

For almost a century, from 1860 to 1940, Québec's writers, poets, painters, sculptors and musicians were more or less content to follow the artistic trends of the Old World. The historical novel *Les Anciens Canadiens* (1863), by Philippe-Aubert de Gaspé, is generally considered to be the first Québec novel. Later came the works of Émile Nelligan (Québec's first great poet), Laure Conan, Louis Fréchette and others. At the turn of the century, painters such as James Wilson Morrice, Suzor-Côté and Clarence Gagnon, along with sculptors Henri Hébert and Alfred Laliberté, made their marks on the history of art in Québec.

In 1940, with the return from Paris of Québec avant-garde painter Alfred Pellan, a new spirit became apparent in the arts. In 1948 a group of "automatistes," including the painter Jean-Paul Borduas, published *Le Refus global*, a manifesto which was to unleash a veritable revolution in the arts. The Refus emphasized the necessity of shaking off European influences to create original Québec art—something which would be neither American nor English-Canadian.

Québec painters, then, were the first to embrace the spirit of the new movement; they were followed by sculptors, engravers and architects, all seeking a unifying vision for the visual arts. The best known of these artists of yesterday and today (in addition to Pellan and Borduas) are Marc-Aurèle Fortin, Ozias Leduc, Fernand Leduc, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Jean-Paul Lemieux and

Albert Dumouchel (painting and engraving); and Armand Vaillancourt, Robert Roussil and Jordi Bonet (sculpture).

Following in the footsteps of François-Xavier Garneau, historians such as Lionel Groulx, Robert Rumilly and Guy Frégault have made Quebecers more aware of their own history.

Québec's Ambassadors

Québec's poets, writers and chansonniers have expressed the realities of their land and culture in their works. In the forties, many of them began to leave the past behind and to concentrate their artistic efforts on twentieth century Québec—a modern and urban society, like the rest of North America, but with deep roots in rural life and traditions.

Québec's contemporary novelists include Anne Hébert (1983 Fémina Award for *In the Shadow of the Wind*); Gabrielle Roy (1947 Fémina Award for *The Tin Flute*); Marie-Claire Blais (1966 Médicis Award for *A Season in the Life of Emmanuel*); Réjean Ducharme (*L'Avalée des avalés*); Yves Beauchemin (*The Alley Cat*); Michel Tremblay, also a playwright whose subject is often working-class life (*Les Belles-soeurs*); Mordecai Richler (*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*); and Yves Thériault (*Agaguk*). The September 1987 edition of the French literary magazine LIRE placed Michel Tremblay among the world's fifty greatest authors.

Québec's major poets over the last forty years include Alain Grandbois, Saint-Denys Garneau, Gaston Miron (1981 Guillaume-Apollinaire Prize for *L'Homme rapaillé*), Hubert Aquin, Anne Hébert and Leonard Cohen (*Beautiful Losers*). (Leonard Cohen is also a singer-songwriter and novelist.)

Québec's singers and songwriters have often proven to be its most eloquent ambassadors abroad. For three decades, from the fifties to the seventies, Félix Leclerc, Gilles Vigneault and Robert Charlebois revolutionized the Québec chanson, leading the way for other Québec singers to contribute significantly to the renewal of French-language popular music.

These three great names in the history of the Québec chanson have opened the way for such artists as Claude Léveillée, Jean-Pierre Ferland, Claude Dubois, Jean Lapointe, Fabienne Thibault, Michel Rivard, and Diane Tell who won the 1986 Victoire Prize for the best recording by a French-speaking artist. Other well known singers include Diane Dufresne, Ginette Reno, Daniel Lavoie, Céline Dion, and Nathalie and René Simard. The songs of these artists are often at the top of the charts.

DIM

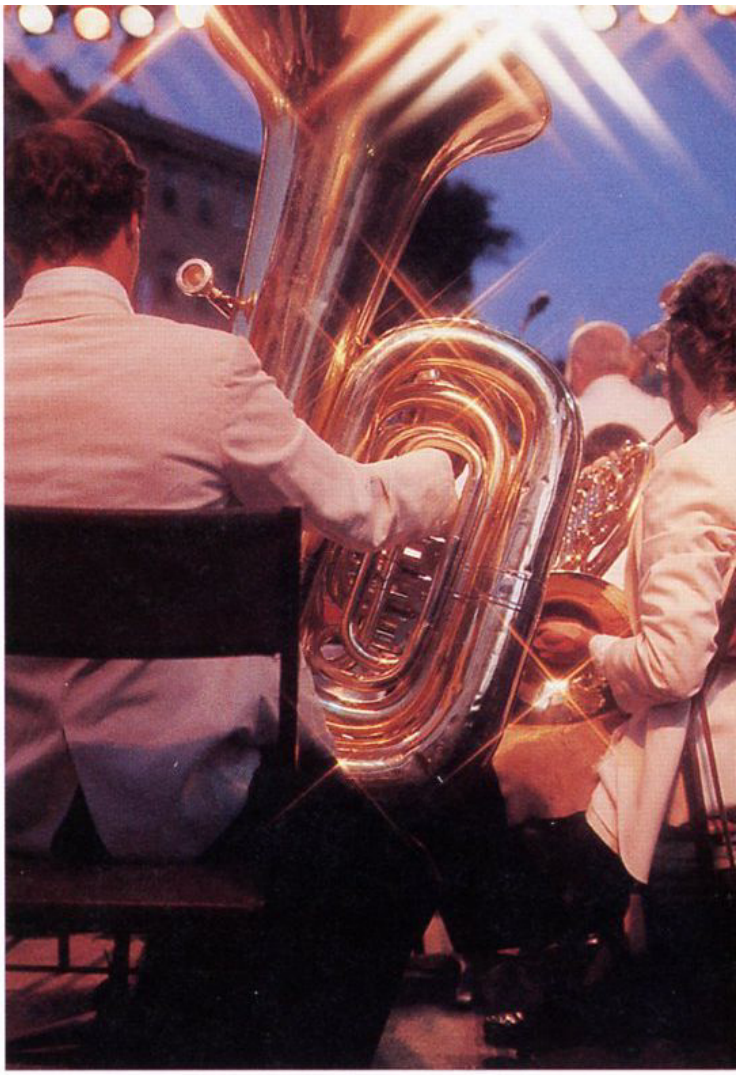
More Music... and Dance

Like the other arts in Québec, classical music, opera, jazz and dance are becoming increasingly popular. Audiences have discovered the talents of such artists as André Gagnon, a composer-pianist who combines popular and classical styles; of opera stars Raoul Jobin, Louis Quilico, André Turp, Joseph Rouleau, and Colette Boky; and of jazz great Oscar Peterson.

Québec has two symphony orchestras: in Québec City, under Simon Streatfield, and in Montréal (ninety permanent musicians), under the talented and prestigious Charles Dutoit. The Montréal Symphony Orchestra has given concerts all over the world; every year it adds to its collection of international prizes for its recordings. Montréal also has an opera company and a youth orchestra (Orchestre des jeunes du Québec). The latter brings together the most talented graduates of Québec's ten music conservatories. All these institutions are subsidized by the government, as is a network of music camps, including the internationally acclaimed camp at the Centre d'art Orford in the Eastern Townships.

A significant force in the world of classical ballet, Les Grands Ballets canadiens has received standing ovations all over the world. Dance groups such as the Feux-Follets and the Sortilèges export Québec folkdances. Others—the Ballet Eddy Toussaint and La La La Human Steps—are bringing new life to the form itself.

Montréal's international jazz festival, held annually since 1977, is on its way to becoming one of the most important jazz music events of its kind. Its young, risk-taking producers do not hesitate to invite the great names from the world of jazz. Québec groups (Offenbach, Harmonium, Men Without Hats, UZEB) and singers (Corey Hart, Marjo) testify to the vitality and creativity of its home-grown rock and jazz artists.



Claire Dufour

It should also be noted that Québec's recording studios enjoy a fine reputation in the music world. They employ state-of-the-art technology and are less expensive than facilities elsewhere. The popular British rock group The Police, as well as David Bowie, Cat Stevens and the Bee Gees have cut records in André Perry's studios at Morin-Heights in the Laurentides.

Dramatic Arts

Québec has approximately ten active theatre companies. Each offers at least one new Québec play per year, as well as productions of contemporary and classical works.

Some eighty summer theatre companies, scattered throughout Québec, present vaudeville and light comedy. Québec has 250 theatre troupes, and each summer many countries participate in Montréal's Festival du théatre des Amériques.

Professional actors specializing in collective creations, folk theatre and children's theatre, take their talents across Québec throughout the year or, like Michel Lemieux, busy themselves by creating new forms of expression. Or consider the Ligue national d'improvisation, which now has its equivalent in other French-speaking countries. The plays of Robert Lepage (*Vinci* and *La Trilogie des dragons*) and Marie Laberge (*L'Homme gris* and *Oublier*) have contributed to the renewal of Québec theatre. These last two artists also act and direct.

André-Philippe Gagnon is difficult to categorize. A true jack-of-all-trades as a performer, Gagnon is at once mime, singer, comedian, impersonator and monologist.

The National Film Board of Canada, established in 1939, has promoted the works of its Québec filmmakers abroad, winning several Oscars for animated short films. The NFB was also the first to promote feature-length films by Québec filmmakers, before private producers began to tackle the difficult international market.

Micheline Lévesque

In addition to its permanent collections, the Musée de Québec regularly exhibits works of art from Québec and from around the world.

MCQ

Montréal's Place des Arts: a vibrant centre for theatre, the visual arts and music.

Until recently it was Québec's actors and actresses who received the greater part of international acclaim: Geneviève Bujold, Carole Laure, Daniel Pilon, Alexandra Stewart, Gabrielle Lazure and Monique Mercure (1977 acting award at Cannes).

In the last few years, however, the works of Québec filmmakers have met with considerable popular and critical acclaim throughout the world: Denys Arcand with *Le Déclin de l'empire américain*; Jean-Claude Lauzon with *Un Zoo la nuit*; Gilles Carle with *Maria Chapdelaine*; and producer Denis Héroux.

Frédérick Back, a Radio-Canada employee, won an Oscar in the category of "best animated film" in 1982, with his film *Crac*; his short films have also won many prizes both in Canada and abroad. In 1986 another Quebecer, Stéphane Dupuis, won an Oscar in the category of "best make-up" for his work in an American film (*The Fly*).

Montréal has become a major motion picture mecca. Every year the city is the site of coproductions using Québec technicians and cameramen, whose skill and ability are increasingly acknowledged. Montréal is also host to one of the world's most important international film festivals.

Québec has some fifty museums, making art accessible to all. The largest of these—the Musée des Beaux-Arts, the Musée d'art contemporain, the Musée du Québec and the Musée de la civilisation—show the works of representative artists from Québec and elsewhere. Montréal and Québec City both have large centres for the performing arts: Place des Arts in Montréal; Palais Montcalm and the Grand Théâtre in Québec City.

Québec television production is thriving.

Radio-Québec

Communications

The communications media in Québec — cable TV, radio, television, telephone and the print media — are all very highly developed and highly used: Québecers are among the most avid users of these media in the world.

Québec's local groups and minority ethnic communities produce community television on cable TV (232 channels), thus providing alternatives to the major networks. Cable also brings American television into Québec homes; most Quebecers can choose from among some thirty regular channels and two pay TV channels.

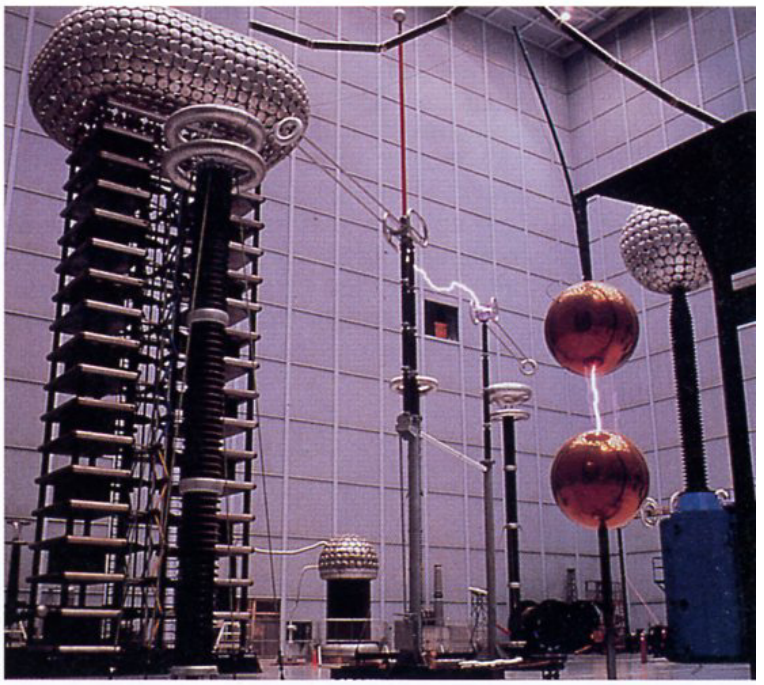
In 1919, radio station XWA went on the air, making Montréal the first city in the world to offer radio service. (XWA later became the English-language station CFCF.) In 1922 the French-language station CKAC went on the air, also in Montréal. Radio has developed considerably since that time, and today there are some 120 AM and FM radio stations in Québec. Six radio networks (including four of the state-owned corporation, Radio-Canada) are heard by listeners throughout Québec; the other stations are privately owned and operate on a local or regional level.

Six television networks broadcast throughout Québec; three of these are government corporations: Radio Canada, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Radio-Québec. All networks make an important contribution to cultural life by broadcasting a great many poetic and dramatic works created especially for radio and television. Each network, whether public or private, provides between eighteen and twenty hours per day of information and entertainment. Some radio stations are on the air round the clock.

Québecers are great TV-watchers and radio-listeners. They are also avid users of the telephone; indeed 97.7 percent of the people have at least one telephone. Although some twenty companies offer services in Québec, Bell Canada serves 88 percent of the population. With one of the most up-to-date systems in the world, Bell Canada's telephone service is considered the best in North America for speed and efficiency.

Quebecers can choose from among twelve daily newspapers (including two English-language papers), some 180 weekly papers and magazines (twenty of these have Canada-wide circulation), and more than 200 reviews and periodicals.

Although the print media are privately owned, Québecers tend to regard news as an essential public service and do not like to see it treated as just another marketable commodity. In 1973, at the urging of some 1,200 print and other journalists, the Conseil de presse was established. The Conseil hears complaints from the public and from those working in the field of news. It publishes its decisions, which have considerable moral weight but are not binding.



IRIQ

A high-tech laboratory at Hydro-Québec.

The World of Science

Any society's scientific contribution to humanity is also an essential part of its culture. Québec's research centres and institutes are becoming increasingly known around the world—and its scientists are gaining international reputations.

With its increasing emphasis on technology, Québec invests a billion dollars annually in research and development, of which 60 percent comes from the private sector. The vitality of the pharmaceutics, chemical and food industries stimulates research and development in biotechnology.

In the Montréal region alone, the pharmaceutics industry accounts for 42 businesses and 6,500 jobs, and counts 430 researchers. The figures for the chemical industry are 192 businesses, 10,850 jobs, 300 researchers; and for the food industry 468 businesses, 30,500 jobs and some 130 researchers.

Québec's numerous university laboratories and research centres have gained an international reputation in fields such as biotechnology, laser optics and telecommunications.

The Québec government is responsible for seven research institutes and centres; Québec's universities have established approximately one hundred such centres

since 1930. Among the best known are the following: the Institut international sur le stress, set up by the late Dr. Hans Selye, biochemist and pioneer in the field of stress; the Institut de cardiologie de Montréal (Dr. Paul David); the Montréal Neurological Institute, internationally known for research on and treatment of the brain, and founded by the late Dr. Wilder Graves Penfield, a pioneer in the field of epilepsy treatment; and the Institut Armand-Frappier, a centre for research in microbiology, founded by Dr. Frappier, recognized for his work in developing the BCG tuberculosis vaccine.

The endocrinologist Jean Dussault, nominated for a Nobel Prize in 1982, is well known for his work on congenital hypothyroidism. A Québec chemist, Pierre Deslongchamps, synthesized one of the most complex molecules ever reconstituted in a laboratory: ryanodol.

In 1983, psychoneurologist Brenda Milner was awarded a Canadian "Nobel," the Izaak Walton Killam Prize, for her research on how brain functions affect behaviour. Her discoveries on memory and intelligence are cited throughout the world. Another Quebecer, neurobiologist André Barbeau, has developed medication used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

These are but a few of the hundreds of Québec scientists whose work is respected throughout the world.

A Spirit of Celebration

There are more festivals organized in Québec every year than there are days in the year! Quebecers like to celebrate. Winter, agriculture, sports, the fishing season, their own history—all represent good reasons for Québecers to get together and enjoy themselves. There are more than four hundred celebrations, festivals and carnivals in Québec every year.

On June 24, the Fête nationale du Québec (Feast of St. John the Baptist), there is dancing in the streets. Bonfires can be seen all along the St. Lawrence, from Montréal to the Côte-Nord. In February, Québec City holds its celebrated winter carnival, with its international ice sculpture competition, its Queen, its enormous "Bonhomme," and its many activities lasting through to Lent.

Drummondville hosts its Festival mondial de folklore in July, and Québec City its international summer festival. Early August sees the international swim across lac Saint-Jean from Péribonka to Roberval, and the international regattas in Valleyfield; and the Mauricie international canoe race, with its three-stage, 160-km course, is held in early September.

Among the most typical of Québec festivities are those related to the maple syrup season—the period in March or April when the alternating nighttime freeze and daytime thaw causes the maple sap to rise. This is a time for families and friends to gather at the "sugar shacks" in Québec's maple groves. Some 200 of these cabins open their doors to visitors, who come to sample the syrup, maple taffy and solidified maple sugar. Dance and song are the order of the day, with perhaps a little "caribou" (a mixture of spirits and red wine) for those with solid stomachs.

The 3.3 million tourists which Québec receives every year (mostly American and European) are no strangers to its sugar shack get-togethers, its sporting events and its various festive occasions. Professional sports events attract fans year-round: ice hockey (the national sport in Québec), baseball, football, soccer and auto racing.

Each sport has its stars, worshipped by their fans and often well known outside Québec. Quebecers avidly follow their idols' personal and professional lives in the news media: Maurice Richard, Guy Lafleur, Jacques Lemaire, Jacques Plante (hockey), and the late Gilles Villeneuve, who died in Belgium at the wheel of his Formula I Ferrari in 1982.

With 1,600 sports clubs across Québec, Quebecers enthusiastically support their stars on the international amateur scene: Sylvie Bernier (gold medal in diving at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles); Gaétan Boucher (two gold medals and one bronze for speed skating in the same year at the Olympic Games in Sarajevo); and Jacqueline Gareau, one of the world's top woman marathoners. Gareau made her reputation at Montréal's International Marathon, which attracts more than 10,000 entries every autumn.

The most popular amateur sports in Québec are downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice hockey, skating, swimming, badminton, softball and tennis.

Pierre Poulet

Young athletes prepare for international competitions in some twenty disciplines by participating in the Québec Games, the Arctic Games and the Canada Games.

Québec's festivals, carnivals, marathons and other events are wonderful occasions for Quebecers to mix with friends, stage performances and shows, and celebrate.

A T A G L A N C E

Tourism (1986-1987)

Visitors from the United States: 2.8 million; Europe: 281,000; Elsewhere: 178,000; total: 3,259,000
Accommodations: 1,900 establishments; rooms: 63,000
Restaurants: over 12,000; 3,000 in Montréal, 500 in Québec City.

Passports and Visas

All persons visiting Québec who do not hold American or Canadian citizenship must have a valid passport. In some cases a visa issued by Canada is also required. Foreign nationals will want to obtain all necessary information from the nearest Canadian diplomatic mission.

Cinema, Theatre, Crafts (1987)

Québec has almost 400 movie theatres (including drive-ins and non-commercial theatres)
There are also 80 summer theatres, 250 theatre companies, 11 repertory theatres, and 40 stages
Some 2,400 craftspeople (apart from Inuit and Amerindians whose art is in great demand) make a living through their work. Montréal and Québec City each host an annual exhibition of Québec crafts in December. Québec has some 125 art and cultural centres.

Recreation

Public facilities include 250 vacation centres (vacation camps and outdoor recreation facilities), nineteen parks (of which three are under federal jurisdiction), seven zoological gardens and two aquariums. There are over 180,00 recreation specialists and technicians, tourist workers, group leaders and instructors in the various recreational fields.

Communications (1987)

- Radio: 120 stations (69 AM, 51 FM) plus 45 low-power Native stations
  By language of broadcast: French 108, English 11, multilingual 1
  Public: 13; private: 85; community: 22
- Television: 30 stations (4 French networks, 2 English)
  By language of broadcast: French 27, English 3
  Seventeen private stations
- Household audience percentages: radio: 99.9%; television: 98.6%; cable TV: 60%
- Community media: 40 TV corporations, 23 radio stations, 80 printed media.

Public Libraries (1987)

124 independent municipal libraries, of which 18 answer to an agency or committee; 733 libraries affiliated with 11 loan centres. More than 86% of the population has access to a public library.

L'Imagier (Daniel Sauvageau)

Les gens de ce pays
Ce sont gens de bâtir
Ce sont gens d'aujourd'hui
À fabriquer demain.

«Le pays de ces gens», Gilles Vigneault
June 1981, Éditions de l'Arc, Québec

Living in Québec

Gilles Vigneault sings of a land and its people, and of their dreams on a soft summer evening—dreams of hope, of love, of the coming harvest.

Imagine them on just such a summer evening, as they wander where they will: in the bustling city streets or along a deserted country road.

Even in a city as large as Montréal one does experience that «impersonal» feeling so often associated with urbanization. City-dwellers live in safety, pursuing their activities at their own pace. Outside the city centre, neighbourhoods are much like small villages: the people know each other well and willingly take time to chat.

Quebecers live in such a safe and peaceful society that they are sometimes amazed by the reaction of visitors, who are surprised not to find in Québec all the drawbacks of modern society. And Quebecers are very likely to invite the visitor to stay — to discover the secrets, beauty and wealth of their vast land.

Québec

Q U É B E C
Delegations and Offices in Canada and Abroad

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BANGKOK 10500, Thailand
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Telex: 82671 (DOMCAN TH)

Hong Kong (1979)
Québec Government Delegation
Admiralty Center, Tower 1
18 Harcourt Road, Suite 1716-1718
HONG KONG
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9-011 (852) 5-291126 (Immigration)
Telex: 802 86947 (SINPQ-HX)
Fax: 9-011 (852) 5-271144

Singapore (1985)
Québec Government Office
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Telex: 87 42250 (QUESIN)

Tokyo (1973)
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1-3, Kojimachi, 5th Floor
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Telex: 72 23842 (TOKEBEC)
Fax: 9-011 (813) 239-5140

EUROPE

Brussels (1972)
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1040 BRUXELLES, Belgium
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Telex: 46 25276 (QUEBRU B)
Fax: 9-011 (322) 514-2641

Düsseldorf (1970)
Québec Government Office
Königsallee 30
Kö-Center, 6th Floor
4 DÜSSELDORF
Federal Republic of Germany
Tel.: 9-011-49-211-32-0816
Telex: 41 8587659 (QUED D)

Lisbon (1980)
Québec Government Office
Immigration Service
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LISBON CODEX 1298
Portugal
Tel.: 9-011-351-1-540291
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Telex: 51 261618 (QUELON G)
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Milan (1965)
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Economic Service
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75116 PARIS, France
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Fax: 9-011 (331) 4500-7160

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Rome (1986)
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